

BADGER STATE

Smoke Signals

For Radio Amateurs • By Radio Amateurs

Published Monthly Since 1969 • Our 23rd Year • Single Copy: \$1.25

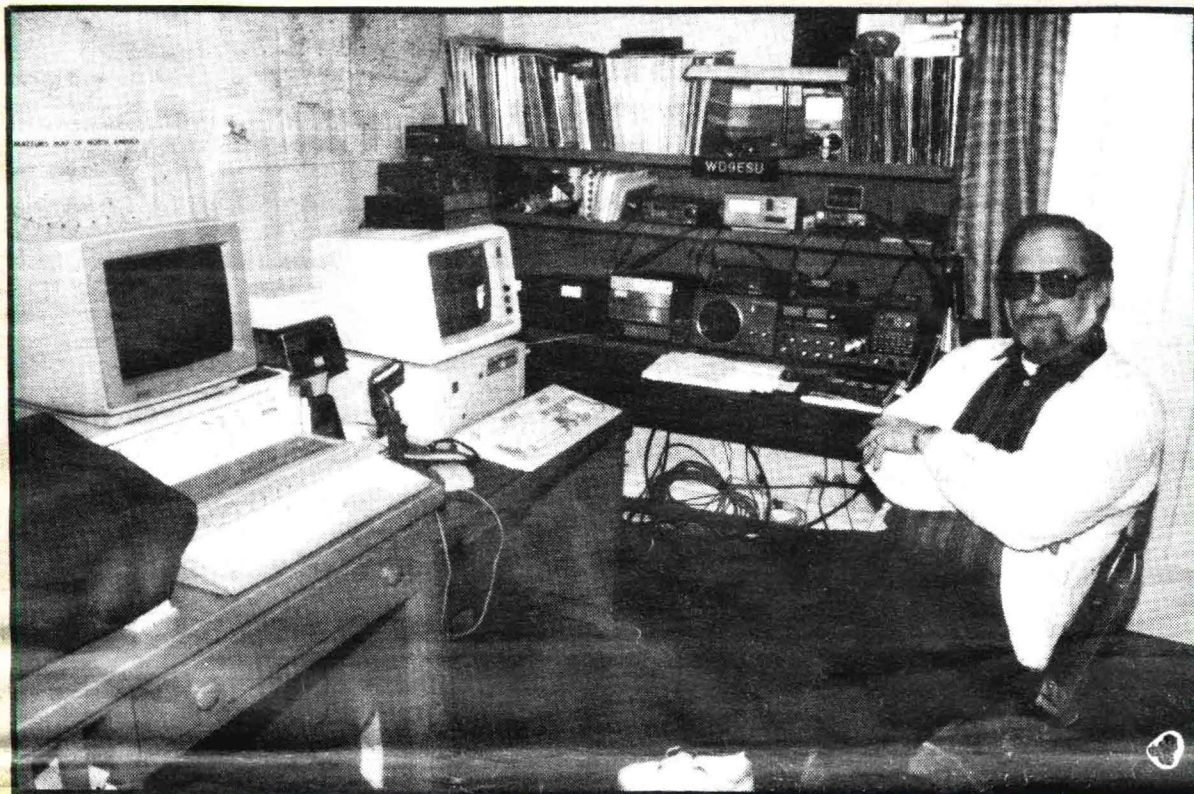
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A Packet Radio Bulletin Board System - Complete With SysOp



The WD9ESU packet radio BBS near Lodi, shown in this photo, serves a large number of users in the south-central Wisconsin area, including Madison. That's the congenial System Operator (SysOp), Larry Shields, WD9ESU, relaxing in his comfortable operating chair. Near the center of the photo, on the shelf just to the left of the HF rig's speaker/control are three MFJ terminal node controllers. One of those has an added 9600 baud modem, which is used on the 223.565 traffic forwarding/receiving link to Slinger, WI. System users usually access the BBS on the local area network (LAN) frequency of 145.07 MHz. Other forwarding and receiving is done on 145.01 MHz. Of course, computers are part of the BBS as well, including one with a BIG hard drive to handle the high volume of packet traffic which flows through the system every day. Larry's tower and antennas are visible from the Interstate highway, which is about a half-mile or so away. See page 6 of this issue for a photo of the WD9ESU antenna system.

- BSSS staff photo

Between 216 and 220 MHz?

FCC Approves New "Interactive" TV Band

The FCC has acted to assign new spectrum on a request by TV Answer, Inc., for a new service called "Interactive Video and Data Service," or IVDS. Two IVDS licenses will be awarded by lottery for each local service area before the end of the year, with first services to reach consumers soon afterwards.

This new service, which could be used in conjunction with broadcast, cable (including "wireless" cable), or direct broadcasts by satellite, will allow viewers to respond to TV shows they are watching. In addition, service users will be able to bank, pay bills, or shop without using computers or telephones.

Programming will include public opinion questions, news polls, and entertainment shows, with viewers able to respond through a wireless transceiver unit. A \$120 million contract has been let by TV Answer with Hughes Network Systems to provide technology for up to 10,000 cell sites used to implement the transmission system nationally.

The FCC said IVDS will be regulated as a radio service, and will use "frequencies assigned to maritime communications, but not used for technical reasons."

Look for the Commission to now kill the ARRL's request for special, fixed-location assignments in the 216-220 MHz band.

- Westlink Report, 1/29/92

ARRL DXCC Desk Accredits Hungarian ZA Operations

The ARRL DXCC Desk in Newington, Connecticut today announced that QSL cards for ZA1HA, ZA1QA, and ZA1DX are being accepted for DXCC purposes. Licenses for these operations were issued by the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport in Tirana.

There has been confusion in Tirana over what a radio amateur is, and who has the authority to issue amateur licenses. The Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport and the Albanian Radio Sport

Please turn to page 7, column 1

FCC to Consider Changes in "Business Communications" Prohibitions in Part 97.113

The Federal Communications Commission has assigned RM numbers to two Proposals for Changes in Part 97.113 of its rules concerning so-called business communications.

An American Radio Relay League proposal, in the form of a recent letter to the Commission, and detailed in *The ARRL Letter*, March QST, and *Badger State Smoke Signals*, was assigned RM-7895. A proposal by Henry Ruh, KB9FO, publisher of *ATV Quarterly*, concerning matters specifically of interest to Amateur television enthusiasts, was assigned RM-7896.

The League's proposal, submitted informally to the Commission on January 6, 1992, would restate certain sections of Part 97.113 in order to enable Amateurs to continue, unfettered, to perform public service work. The League had not submitted a formal Proposal for Rule Making in the matter.

The Ruh proposal concerns such topics as Amateur retransmission by television of weather data and NASA video feeds, and also addresses the occasional transmission of music when it is incidental to such retransmissions.

- From ARRL Bulletin 14, 2/5/92

ELMER

By Rich Regent, K9GDF



ON THE INSIDE

Balloon/Ham Radio Launch in March:
Details on page 10 of this issue!

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What's Happening

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Edited by Kenneth A. Ebnetter, K9EN • 822 Wauona Trail • Portage, WI 53901

Swapfests and Other Social Events

SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 1992. Jefferson County Fairgrounds, Hwy. 18 West, Jefferson, WI sponsored by the Tri-County ARC. Contact TCARC, W9MOB, 213 Frederick, Fort Atkinson, WI 53538. (Also see the ad this issue of BSSS.)

SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 1992. Madison Swapfest & Computer Fair, Dane County Expo Center Forum Bldg, Madison, WI. Admission; \$4.00 in advance or \$5.00 at the door, Tables \$9.00 advance. Reserve early as this is a sell out every year. Table reservations do not include admission price, you must buy separate admission tickets. Contact MARA, Box 8890, Madison, WI 53708-8890. (608) 249-7579. (Also see the ad this issue of BSSS.)

SATURDAY, MAY 2, 1992. The Ozaukee Radio Club will sponsor its 14th annual Cedarburg Swapfest, at the Circle-B Recreation Center, Hwy. 60 and Cty. I. Contact ORC Swapfest, 11448 Laguna Dr., Mequon, WI 53092. (414) 242-4995.

SATURDAY, JULY 18, 1992. Eau Claire Amateur Radio Club hamfest, at the Chippewa Falls Fairgrounds. Contact: Lis Searing, N9EQR, 1129 McKinley Rd., Eau Claire, WI 54701. (715) 834-1303.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1992. The KMRA 1991 Computer and Ham Radio Swapfest will be held at the Waukesha County Exposition Center, Hwys. J and FT in Waukesha, WI. Contact KMRA Swapfest, P.O. Box 411, Waukesha, WI 53187-0411.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, 1993. 21st Annual WARAC MIDWINTER swapfest, Waukesha County Expo Center Forum, Waukesha, WI. Contact WARAC Swapfest, P.O. Box 1072, Milwaukee, WI 53201. Please note this will be on a Sunday next year instead of the previous Saturday dates.

Club Meetings



Due to space limitations we cannot always carry the full listing of Wisconsin and area club meetings. Please save the following listings for your future reference. We hope to have the full listing at least three times a year, and will carry any changes or additions between full listings.

BADGER AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (W9YT - U. W. - MADISON)

Monthly while school in session - 2nd Wed. - 7:30 p.m. - B-314, Electrical Engineering Bldg.

CENTRAL WISCONSIN RADIO AMATEURS, LTD.
(STEVENS POINT)
Second Wed..

EAU CLAIRE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
2nd Tue. - 7:30 p.m. - Parks and Recreation Bldg., Oxford and 1st Streets, Eau Claire. Hams, guests welcome. Travelers welcome on wide area club repeater K9UXP, 146.31/91.

FOUR LAKES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB (MADISON WI)
First and third Tues - 7:30 p.m. - Red Cross Bldg., 4860 Sheboygan Ave., room "C" downstairs. It is the next building west of the Hill Farms State Office building. The meetings start promptly at 7:30 pm.

FOX CITIES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
Third Mon. - 7:00 p.m. - Roosevelt Jr. High School, 318 E. Brewster St., Appleton. Info: (414) 766-3886.

GREATER MILWAUKEE DX ASSOCIATION
Fourth Mon. of the month at 7:30 p.m. Contact Jerry Scherkenbach, N9AW, at (414) 481-8831 for meeting location.

GREEN BAY MIKE AND KEY CLUB
Second Thur. 7:30 pm - Media Services area of the J. M. Science Building at St. Norbert College in DePere.

GREEN FOX AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
Third Mon. - 7:30 p.m. - Green Lake Town Hall, int. of county hwy's. K and N.

KETTLE MORAINES RADIO AMATEURS
Second Fri., 7:30 p.m. at the Waukesha County Technical College, Campus Science Building, Room 102. Talk-in on the N9KS 147.39 repeater.

LAKESHORE RPTR. ASSN.
Last Tue., Jan., Apr., Jul., & Oct., 7:30 pm Red Cross Bldg., 4521 Taylor Ave., Racine, WI

MADISON AREA REPEATER ASSN
The meeting schedule for 1991 is as follows: Nov. 11.

MANITOWOC COUNTY RADIO AMATEURS
Directors Meeting: First Wed.
General meeting: Second Wed.
Both meetings held at 7:30 p.m. in the basement, Manitowoc City Hall, 817 Franklin St., Manitowoc.

MENOMONEE FALLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
Last Tue. - Doors open 7:30 p.m., meeting begins 8:00 p.m. - Security Savings and Loan, Menomonee Falls. Amateurs and guests welcome.

MILWAUKEE RADIO AMATEURS CLUB
Fourth Thursday, Wauwatosa Savings and Loan (lower level) at 7500 W. State St. in Wauwatosa. No meetings in July, August and December.)

NORTHERN WISCONSIN RADIO CLUB
4th Tue. - 7:30 p.m., Sept. through April. Peppermill Restaurant, Thunderbird Mall North, Menomonie, WI. Guests welcome.

NORTHWOODS ARC (RHINELANDER WI)
Third Tue.. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Meeting at 7:30 p.m. South Park School, Rhineland, WI. Talk-in on 146.93/.34. All interested visitors to the Northwoods are welcomed.

OZAUKEE RADIO CLUB
Second Wed. - 7:30 p.m. - Saukville Community Center.

QCWA - WISCONSIN CHAPTER #55
Contact Robert Shady, KB9XR, Treasurer, 905 E. Doty Place, Milwaukee, WI, 53207. For information about meeting dates or joining QCWA Chapter #55. The Wisconsin Chapter holds Spring and Fall dinner meetings.

QCWA - SOUTHEAST WISCONSIN CHAPTER #162
Meets third Mon. monthly, 7:30 p.m., Around the Clock Restaurant, 3012 Rapids Drive, Racine.

RACINE MEGACYCLE CLUB
Second Mon., 7:30 p.m., Red Cross Bldg., 4521 Taylor Ave., Racine, WI

RIVERLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
First Tue. - 7:45 p.m. - Onalaska Community Center, Onalaska WI.

ROCK RIVER RADIO CLUB
Monthly - first Tue. - 7:00 p.m. at Dodge County Sheriff's Department, 141 N. Main, Juneau, WI.
ARES Net: 146.04/146.64 Mon.s at 7:30 p.m. Sat. on 7277 KHz at 10:30 a.m.

Badger State Smoke Signals

Amateur Radio Education and Information

CHAIRMAN: Kenneth A. Ebnetter, K9EN, 822 Wauona Trail, Portage, WI 53901. Telephone (608) 742-3560.

EDITOR: Jim Romelfanger, K9ZZ, 412 1/2 Ash Street, Baraboo, WI 53913. Telephone (608) 356-4031.

TREASURER: Jim Decker, WB9UQT, P.O. Box 337, Baraboo, WI 53913-0337.

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Subscriptions

| | | |
|---------|-------------|---------|
| 1 year | (12 issues) | \$9.75 |
| 2 years | (24 issues) | \$18.00 |
| 3 years | (36 issues) | \$26.00 |

Special club package reduced rates are available. For information, contact Ken Ebnetter, K9EN.

When to Send It

The closing date for each issue is the first of the month for the next month's issue. For example, the closing date for the June issue is May 1.

The only exception is for participating clubs. Participating clubs are requested to send their material no later than SEVEN DAYS after the club's meeting. For

example, if a club meets on the 4th of the month, the material should be sent no later than the 11th of that month. This material is to be sent to the Editor.

Where to Send It

Address changes and corrections should be sent to Ken Ebnetter.

Editorial material, photographs, feature articles, display ads, and exchange papers should be sent to Jim Romelfanger.

Inquiries about advertising should be directed to Ken Ebnetter.

Swapfest information should be sent to Ken Ebnetter. Swapfest ads should be sent to Jim Romelfanger.

Subscriptions should be sent, with check or money order, to Jim Decker.

Conditions for Reprinting Material from Badger State Smoke Signals

Permission is hereby granted to reprint articles from *Badger State Smoke Signals*, providing credit is given to the original author, publication in which the article first appeared, and to *Badger State Smoke Signals*. This credit is mandatory, and no material may be printed unless it is given. This newspaper is produced by volunteer Radio Amateurs, and is non-profit. This newspaper is mailed from Portage, WI 53901.

Editorial Disclaimer

The opinions expressed in editorials, guest editorials, columns, articles, and letters from readers are the opinions of the authors only, and do not, unless otherwise stated, express or imply endorsement by *Badger State Smoke Signals*, or by any other individual or organization.

SHEBOYGAN COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
Second Tue. - 7:00 p.m. - Sheboygan Red Cross/Boy Scout Bldg., 2032 Erie Ave.

SOUTH MILWAUKEE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
First Wed. - Legion Post 434, Shepard Ave., Oak Creek WI. Auctions in March and October.

TAYLOR COUNTY AREA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB (TCAARC) MEDFORD
Usually the 2nd Thur. of the month at 7:00 PM sharp. Usual location: emergency government meeting room, basement of Sheriff's Annex to Taylor County Courthouse, 2nd and Ogden Sts., Medford, WI. Talk-in on 147.75/15 or 145.27(-600) repeaters. Amateurs & guests are welcome. ARS Net, Wed. nights at 8:30 PM on 147.75/15. For info contact: Rolland Walty, W9LEE, W4117 Hwy. 102, Westboro, WI 54490. (715) 427-3492

TRI-COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
Sun. of each month. Meetings are held at 7:00 p.m., at the Trinity Lutheran Church, 314 Barrie, Fort Atkinson, WI.

WASHINGTON COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
Second Thursday, 7:30 p.m., Washington County Court House. Net on Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. on 146.73.

WATERTOWN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
First Thur. of the month at 7:00 p.m., The Watertown Public Library, 100 S. Water St., Watertown, WI.

WAUPACA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
First Sat. in March, June, September and December, at 9:30 a.m. at the Waupaca Fire Station in downtown Waupaca.

"QQ First Tue." - A social gathering and dutch treat luncheon at the King's Table in King, WI, on Highway QQ just south of highways 10 and 54 on the west side of Waupaca.

WEST ALLIS RADIO AMATEUR CLUB
Second Tue. - 8:00 p.m. - St. Peters Episcopal Church, 7929 Lincoln Ave. Entrance is at rear of building on alley.

WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF REPEATERS
Meetings are held Quarterly, with time and location to be announced. Repeater licensees, trustees, and sponsors are urged to attend W.A.R. meetings. All interested parties are welcome, as well.

WISCONSIN VALLEY RADIO ASSOCIATION (WAUSAU)
First Tue. - 7:30 p.m. - Location varies; info on 146.04/64, Wausau.

YELLOW THUNDER AMATEUR RADIO CLUB (BARABOO)
Days rotate: Scheduled meeting dates:
Thu. Mar. 12
Tue. Apr. 14, Wed. May 13, Thu. Jun. 11
Tue. Jul. 14, Wed. Aug. 12, Thu. Sep. 17
Tue. Oct. 13, Wed. Nov. 18, Thu. Dec. 10
All meeting at the Baraboo Civic Center, Baraboo, WI. Meetings start 7:30 p.m.

Let Badger State Smoke Signals know your club's meeting dates, and we will let our readers know of your meetings and activities. There may be Amateurs in your area interested in joining your club, or members of other clubs interested in making an interclub visit.

The Test Point



Amateur Radio Examination Locations and Schedules in the Wisconsin Area

The following are known locations where Amateur Radio license examinations are scheduled in the Badger State area.

| | |
|----------------|----------------------|
| March 10, 1992 | Juneau, WI |
| March 14, 1992 | Appleton, WI |
| March 14, 1992 | Marshfield, WI |
| March 14, 1992 | Dubuque, IA |
| March 17, 1992 | Milwaukee, WI (MRAC) |
| March 21, 1992 | Madison, WI |

| | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| March 21, 1992 | Milwaukee, WI (BE) |
| March 28, 1992 | Menomonee, WI |
| April 11, 1992 | Medford, WI |
| April 11, 1992 | Eau Claire, WI |
| April 11, 1992 | Ashland, WI |
| April 18, 1992 | Madison, WI |
| April 18, 1992 | Milwaukee, WI (BE) |
| April 21, 1992 | Milwaukee, WI (MRAC) |
| May 2, 1992 | Ozaukee, WI (BE) |
| | Ozaukee swapfest |
| May 9, 1992 | Marshfield, WI |
| May 16, 1991 | Fond Du Lac, WI |
| May 19, 1992 | Milwaukee, WI (MRAC) |
| June 13, 1992 | Dubuque, IA |
| June 16, 1992 | Milwaukee, WI (MRAC) |
| July 11, 1992, | Marshfield, WI |
| July 21, 1992 | Milwaukee, WI (MRAC) |
| August 18, 1992 | Milwaukee, WI (MRAC) |
| August 22, 1992 | Fond Du Lac, WI |
| September 5, 1992 | Dubuque, IA |
| September 12, 1992 | Marshfield, WI |
| September 15, 1992 | Milwaukee, WI (MRAC) |
| October 20, 1992 | Milwaukee, WI (MRAC) |
| November 7 1992 | Menomonee, WI |
| November 14, 1992 | Fond Du Lac, WI |
| November 14, 1992 | Menomonee, WI |
| November 14, 1992 | Marshfield, WI |
| November 17, 1992 | Milwaukee, WI (MRAC) |
| November 21, 1992 | Dubuque, IA |
| December 15, 1992 | Milwaukee, WI (MRAC) |

Monthly, First Sat. Racine, WI
(except January, July & August)
Monthly, Last Sat. Tomahawk, WI
(January thru October only)
Monthly, Third Sat. Loves Park, IL

Many Swapfests/Hamfests offer exam sessions. If not shown above contact the sponsoring club in the Swapfest column on page 2.

GENERAL RULES FOR MOST EXAMINATIONS:

Be sure to check with sponsors in the event there are changes and/or errors in the dates or information given.

Most examinations require filing an FCC Form 610 and advance registration at least 30 days before the exam date. (Some VECs permit walk-ins. Check with sponsor.)

To register, you must first secure a copy of the current FCC Form 610 and fill it out completely (AND CORRECTLY). Get your form from an FCC Field Office, the ARRL or Badger State Smoke Signals. Send a 29¢ SASE if you request one from the ARRL or BSSS. In most cases, forms can also be obtained from the sponsoring group.

ARRL/VEC examinations require a check for \$5.40 payable to "ARRL/VEC".

The FCC now requires applicants to show their original Amateur license to the VEC. A copy of your license must be attached to your FCC form 610. You will also be required to have a photo ID, or other acceptable identification.

Technician class licensees must show proof of testing before March 21, 1987, in order to upgrade to General with a code test only.

Additional information is given below.

MILWAUKEE RADIO AMATEURS' CLUB (MRAC/VEC)
TUESDAY DATES: At 6:30 p.m. at church, 11709 West Cleveland Ave., West Allis, WI. For Additional Information Contact; Jack Krause, W9JK, 1737 N. 116th St., Wauwatosa, WI 53226. (414) 774-6999 or Les Peterson, W9YCV, 9741 W. Howard Ave., Greenfield, WI 53228. (414) 321-4745.

Bring along your original license and two (2) good quality photocopies, plus two forms of identification, such a driver's license, etc. Also required are a pen and \$5.00 for the exam fee. WALK-INS are welcome. To register in advance, use a post card: print the grade of license you are applying for, and your name, address, and telephone number. Send the card to MRAC/VEC, c/o Jack Krause, W9JK, 1737 North 116th Street, Wauwatosa, WI 53226, or to Ed Seruga, KE9JJ, 3840 South 43rd Street #21, Milwaukee, WI 53220. Telephones: (414) 774-6999 or (414) 545-6299.

BADGER EXAMINERS (BE) - MILWAUKEE
Mar. 21, & Apr. 18 1992.
May 2, 1992. Ozaukee swapfest. (Ozaukee)
Unless otherwise noted, examinations are administered beginning at 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at St. Nicholas Church basement, 5345 N. Green

Bay Ave. (2 1/2 blocks south of Silver Spring), Milwaukee. Walk-ins are welcome. CW waiver forms are available. Please send a request with an SASE prior to taking an exam, so it is ready when attending the session. To register in advance, send a post card with your name, test or tests you wish to take, date you wish to take., your call sign, address and telephone number to Badger Examiners, Gary J. Sharbuno, WI9M, 5119 W. Willow Rd., Brown Deer, WI 53223. Telephone (414) 355-0237.

FOND DU LAC - (W5YI-VEC)
Saturdays, May 16, Aug. 22, and Nov. 14, 1992.

The Fond du Lac County VEs will administer exams starting promptly at 1:00 pm, please be on time. Exams are given at the Red Cross Building, 272 N. Main St., Fond du Lac, WI 54935. Please use the back entrance. Talk-in on 147.09+. Walk-ins only, no preregistration is needed. For more info call: Gary Pelletier, KA9QOT (608) 837-3433.

ASHLAND, WI (ARRL/VEC)
Exams at Ashland Eye Clinic, 1001 2nd W., Ashland, WI. Contact Dale Ristrom, 1202 Hwy. 77, Pence, WI 54550. (715) 561-2802. (Thanks ARRL/VEC/K9CDF).

JUNEAU, WI - ARRL/VEC
The Rock River Radio Club will hold an examination session Tuesday evening, March 10 at the Dodge County Annex Building, 143 East Center Street, Juneau, WI. Walk-ins are welcome.

MEDFORD, WI
Saturday, April 11, 1992. sponsored by the Taylor County Area ARC. Registration at 8:30 a.m. with testing starting at 9:00 a.m. Held at the multi-purpose building located at the Taylor County Fairgrounds in Medford, WI. Contact Mike Schoenfuss, N9GHZ, 210 S 4th St, P.O. Box 401, Abbotsford, WI 54405-0401. (715) 223-3996.

MENOMONIE WI - ARRL/VEC
Saturdays: Mar. 28 1992 & Nov. 14, 1992
The Northern Wisconsin Radio Club sponsors exams from 9 to 11:30 a.m. at the U. W. Stout Communications Center, 820 South Broadway, Menomonee, WI. Use front entrance of building. Walk-ins are accepted only to extent of available exam materials.

Contact: Jim Ley, NX9F, (715) 235-3998 (H); or (715) 232-1397 (O).

MARSHFIELD, WISCONSIN
1992 dates: Mar. 14, May 9, Jul. 11, Sep. 12, Nov 14.

Sponsored by the Marshfield Area ARS. Second Saturday every other month, at St. Joseph Hospital, School of Nursing entrance. Room 124. St. Joseph Ave., Marshfield, WI. Walk-ins Welcome. Contact Walter Friant, WBOKIN, 2310 Wal-lonnie Dr., Marshfield, WI 54449.

RACINE, WISCONSIN - ARRL/VEC
Monthly - first Saturday, except January, July, and August.

Exams are given 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. at the Red Cross Building, 4521 Taylor Avenue, Racine. Walk-ins are permitted. Inquiries and registrations should be directed to William Firchow, Jr., NW9P, 1912 27th Street, Kenosha, WI 53140, telephone (414) 658-8390.

TOMAHAWK, WI
Last Saturday of every month. Jan. thru Oct.
Tomahawk Volunteer Examiners (ARRL/VEC). Tomahawk, WI. No preregistration required, but appointment would be appreciated. Registration at 8:30 a.m. and testings starts at 9:00 a.m. For location or other information, inquire on 145.43 MHz. repeater or contact: Greg Garner, WA9W, 4088 Highway 51, Harshaw, WI 54529. Telephone (715) 453-7096.

EAU CLAIRE, WI (W5YI/VEC)
Saturday, April 11, 1992

9 a.m. to noon at St. Olaf's Parish Church School, 2407 North Lane, on Eau Claire's north side near the airport. FCC form 610s will be supplied at exam site. Walk-ins OK. Danish rolls and coffee available.

Exams will also be given at the ECARs (continued on page 15)

Wisconsin Nets Association Ltd.

Rob Hummel, WA9ZTY, Secretary • 202 Midvale Drive • Marshall, WI 53559

Section Manager's Notes



Richard R. Regent, K9GDF
5003 South 26th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53221

Milwaukee Radio Amateurs Club is the World's oldest continuously active Amateur Radio club, now celebrates 75 years, their members prepare for Field Day with a special task Committee.

Rock River RC, which has unique Build-a-Kit and Adopt-a-Highway club programs, will again give great Novice and Technician classes in April.

April 5th, Madison Swapfest & Computer Fair, Dane County Expo Center Forum Building.

Exams April 11, at Madison with NG9V and at Medford (Taylor Co. ARC) see N9GHZ; April 18th, Milwaukee (Badger Examiners) contact WI9M; April 21st, Milwaukee (MRAC) W9JK & KE9JJ.

Watertown ARC new officers: Pres. N9JUJ; V. Pres. N9AAA; Treas. WA9YVE; Sec. WA9OAY.

Four Lakes ARC: Pres. KE9XZ; V. Pres.

Wisconsin Nets

| Net | WNA | Freq. | UTC | CST | Mgr. |
|-------|-----|-------|------|------|--------|
| BWN | Yes | 3984 | 1200 | 0600 | W9AYK |
| BEN | Yes | 3985 | 1800 | 1200 | WB9ESM |
| WSBN | Yes | 3985 | 2330 | 1730 | K9UTQ |
| WNN | Yes | 3723 | 0000 | 1800 | KA9FVX |
| WSSN | Yes | 3645 | 0030 | 1830 | N9BDL |
| WIN/E | Yes | 3662 | 0100 | 1900 | WB9ICH |
| WIN/L | Yes | 3662 | 0400 | 2200 | W9NGP |
| NWTN | Yes | 34/94 | 0030 | 1830 | NS9Q |

(Rhinelander area)

| | | | | | |
|------|----|-------|------|------|--------|
| RCRA | No | 01/61 | 0030 | 1830 | KA9OMC |
|------|----|-------|------|------|--------|

(Mondays CST) (Menomonie Area)

| | | | | | |
|---------|----|-------|------|------|--------|
| Gr. Bay | No | 72/12 | 0245 | 2045 | WB9NRK |
|---------|----|-------|------|------|--------|

(Green Bay Area)

| | | | | | |
|------|----|-----------|------|------|--|
| ARES | No | 4.65/5.25 | 0200 | 2000 | |
|------|----|-----------|------|------|--|

(South East/South Central Wisconsin)

| | | | | | |
|-------|----|--------|------|------|--------|
| RACES | No | 3993.5 | 1400 | 0800 | WA9OAY |
|-------|----|--------|------|------|--------|

(LSB Sunday)

NO9M; Treas. N9NFS; Treas. K9KYB.

Madison DX Club: Pres. WI9L; V. Pres. WB9NOV; Sec./Treas. K9VAL.

Ozaukee ARES meets on 146.97 MHz Thurs-

Please turn to page 7, column 1

Correspondence



...from our readers

Jim:

We've gotten many positive comments on our notes in your magazine.... *Smoke Signals* has been a fantastic public relations tool for our club!!!! Thanks for the opportunity, and we hope that the benefits continue to be mutual.

- Lou Maylander, KA9ZQF
Secretary, Mancorad Radio Club

Dear Jim:

We enjoy the *Smoke Signals* very much, and want to congratulate you and your staff on the fine editions which we look forward to receiving every month. Keep up the good work....

- Duane Haas, W9BCV
President, Rock River Radio Club

From the Editor

Thanks for the bouquets in your letters, fellers! You know, here at BSSS World Headquarters - my living room and kitchen - we don't get much feedback from our readers. We are pleased, indeed, to have had your comments and your thanks.

Of course, our chairman, Ken Ebnetter, K9EN, works very hard on the paper, too. He maintains the mailing list(s) and does the billing. He has a *real* job, too, and so sometimes the billings have to wait and aren't done on time. Ken also edits the Swapfest, Club Meetings, and Test Point columns, in addition to setting up The Wisconsin Packeteer for printing. (Does anyone have a laser printer to sell him? He currently uses a daisy wheel printer, and so is stuck with ONE type face.)

Jim Decker, WB9UQT, our trusty treasurer, also has a real job, so, as with Ken, BSSS bookkeeping sometimes has to wait. I have seen the piles of mail Jim has to process, and sometimes those piles get pretty high. Thus, kudos to these two guys are in order, from our readers, our participating clubs, and especially from myself, for putting up with an impatient, often grouchy editor. (There are reasons for much of that, but they are medical, and therefore personal.)

Changes in BSSS

More clubs are joining this newspaper as regular, monthly participants, and that requires more copy space. In order to keep the paper at 16 pages, we are changing type sizes in parts of the paper from 11 point to 10 point type. We are also, on some pages, going to a 4-column format. This will require that we set up the club headings a bit smaller. We believe that the slightly smaller type will be perfectly readable, and it will gain us the equivalent of one full additional page of copy space. The smaller club heads should still stand out well.

If we have to go to 20 pages, our printing expenses will increase about \$70.00 a month.... or, about \$840.00 more per year. If we are to keep printing expenses down, we *must* stay with 16-page issues. If more clubs join, then we will change to 20-page issues. Until then, let's see how the changes described here work. OK? OK.

TigerTail

Range Extender for 2 meter Handhelds

- Boosts Signal from Flex & 1/4 wave Antennas
- Lowers Radiation Angle
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- Raises Low Power Performance
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MADISON SWAPFEST & COMPUTER FAIR

Madison, WI

Sponsored by Madison Area Repeater Association - WB9AER - Madison, WI

DANE COUNTY EXPO CENTER FORUM BLDG.

TALK — IN ON 147.15 REPEATER

Doors Open at 8 A.M. - Sun., April 5, 1992

BOOTH EXHIBITORS & FLEA MARKET SELLERS WITH 6 OR MORE TABLES AT 3 A.M.

ALL OTHER SELLERS ADMITTED AT 7 A.M.

**ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT AND COMPONENTS
FOR HAMS, COMPUTER HOBBYISTS AND EXPERIMENTERS
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FOR BOTH NEW AND USED EQUIPMENT**

DELICIOUS SANDWICHES — DONUTS — ROLLS — COFFEE — POP — MILK

ADMISSION PER PERSON — \$4.00 ADVANCE — \$5.00 DOOR (Children 12 & Under Free)

TABLES — \$9.00 ADVANCE — Reserve Early -- Sell Out Every Year

TABLE RESERVATIONS DO NOT INCLUDE ADMISSION PRICE — YOU MUST BUY SEPERATE ADMISSION TICKET

WE URGE YOU TO CARPOOL AS THE COUNTY CHARGES A PARKING FEE!!!

For Information on Exhibitor Booths, Contact MARA, Box 8890, Madison, WI 53708-8890
Or Call (608) 249-7579 Answer Machine

ADVANCE RESERVATION COUPON

NAME _____ CALL _____
ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
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PLEASE SEND _____ TICKETS AT \$4.00 Per Person

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TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

If there are no more tables available do you still wish to purchase tickets? YES () NO ()

A.C. Outlets available to Booth Exhibitors ONLY.

Please Send S.A.S.E. Make Checks Payable to MARA - Mail to MARA, Box 8890, Madison, WI 53708-8890.

Tickets and Table Reservations Confirmed by Return Mail.

RESERVATIONS NOT ACCEPTED AFTER MARCH 31, 1992.



HERE and THERE

Another Astronaut Passes Ham Exam

Space Shuttle Mission Specialist Kathy Sullivan has passed the no-code Technician amateur exam. Sullivan, with two shuttle flights and more than 300 hours of space time already under her belt, is scheduled to fly in March aboard STS-45, and is the fourth crew member on that flight now licensed for Amateur Radio.

Sullivan is an oceanography officer in the U.S. Navy Reserve, and also is an adjunct professor of Geology at Rice University in Houston.

- ARRL Special Bulletin 5, 1/18/92

ARRL Computer Change-Over Increases DXCC Processing Time

Processing time for DXCC applications has increased recently as a result of major steps in the computerization of DXCC record keeping at ARRL Headquarters. For the same reason, the monthly DXCC awards listing in *QST* will not appear in March, as a crucial computer switch-over takes place. Those listings will appear in April *QST*.

- ARRL Bulletin 10, 1/28/92

League Reaffirms Need for 222 MHz Weak-Signal Band Segment

The ARRL, on August 28, reaffirmed in reply comments to its request to the FCC for rulemaking, RM-7869, the need for an FCC regulation setting aside a 150 kHz segment for weak-signal work on the 222 MHz band.

While taking into account comments on the League's petition, filed by both repeater users and groups and by weak-signal operators, and agreeing with their shared opinion that the problem was caused by amateurs' loss in August, 1991 of two MHz of the band to the land mobile service, the League's comments continued to support its original argument that the need for a weak-signal segment is both desirable and necessary, and such a segment cannot be enforced through voluntary agreements or formalized band-planning by amateurs.

68 comments on the League's petition were received by FCC.

- ARRL Bulletin 11, 1/28/92

Southern Wisconsin-Northern Illinois DX/Contest Club Organized

The Blackhawk DX and Contest Club has recently been organized in Rockford, Illinois. Radio Amateurs in Southern Wisconsin and Northern Illinois sharing interests in DXing or contesting are invited to attend BDXCC meetings, held at 7 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month at the Swedish American Health Care Center at 1358 Fourth Avenue in Rockford.

Racine Sixth-Grader Enroute to Ham License



Jim Miller, a 6th-grade student, and a member of the Gilmore radio class in Racine, practices his code as he heads in the direction of his Amateur Radio license. He is one of five aspiring hams in his class, and is the son of Cheryl Miller, WS9P. A photo of the entire class accompanies the Racine Megacycle Club's minutes in this issue of *Badger State Smoke Signals*.

- Photo courtesy Racine Megacycle Club

For more information about this rapidly-growing club, contact Jim Miller, W4JR, BDXCC Secretary, 5581 Einor Avenue, Rockford, IL. His telephone number is (815) 397-4602.

- Jim Miller, W4JR

Maine Ham is Wisconsin Resident?

Bruce, K1TMM, of Milwaukee, has the new Extra Class call sign WW1M. I asked him why he has a one-land call. Bruce said, "I still 'Maine-tain' property in Maine."

Bruce works as an electronics and computer consultant in Wisconsin, is active in contests as a member of the Midwest Contest Society, and is a member of the Kettle Moraine Radio Amateurs.

- Rich Regent, K9GDF

Send stories and photos to *Badger State Smoke Signals*. Send them to the editor; his address is in the masthead on page 2. Thanks!

Foundation for Amateur Radio

Amateur Radio 1992 Scholarships Announced

Two Wisconsin Clubs Offer
Seven Awards Totalling \$4,250

The Foundation for Amateur Radio Inc., a non-profit organization with headquarters in Washington, D.C., plans to administer 45 scholarships for the academic year 1992-1993 to assist licensed Radio Amateurs. The Foundation, composed of fifty local area Amateur Radio Clubs, fully funds five of these scholarships with the income from grants and its annual Hamfest. The remaining forty are administered by the Foundation without cost to the donors.

Licensed Radio Amateurs may compete for these awards if they plan to pursue a full-time course of studies beyond high school and are enrolled in or have been accepted for enrollment at an accredited university, college, or technical school. The awards range from \$500 to \$2000, with preference given in some cases to residents of specified geographical areas or the pursuit of certain study programs. Clubs are encouraged to announce these opportunities at their meetings, on their nets, during training classes, and in their club newsletters.

Two Wisconsin clubs offer scholarships administered by the F.A.R. The clubs and awards are:

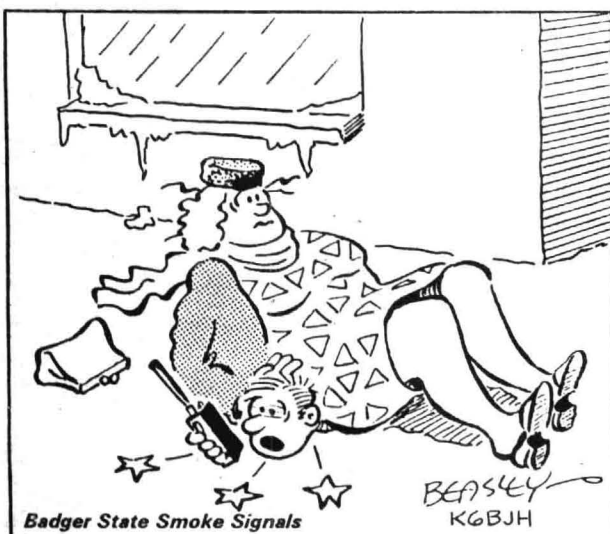
South Milwaukee Amateur Radio Club Scholarships: This club offers four scholarships of \$500 each. Applicants must hold an Amateur Radio license, and intend to seek an Associate or baccalaureate degree in Electrical Engineering or technology from a college or university in the U.S. They may reside in Wisconsin, Illinois, or Indiana, with preference given to Wisconsin residents.

WARAC Memorial Scholarships: The West Allis Radio Amateur Club (WARAC) offers three \$750 scholarships. Applicants must hold an Amateur Radio license, be residents of the state of Wisconsin, and plan to attend a school in Wisconsin, pursuing at least an Associate degree.

Additional information and an application form can be requested by letter or QSL card, postmarked prior to May 31, 1992, from **FAR Scholarships, 6903 Rhode Island Avenue, College Park, MD 20740.**

The Foundation for Amateur Radio, incorporated in the District of Columbia, is an exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954. It is devoted exclusively to promoting the interests of Amateur Radio and those scientific, literary, and educational pursuits that advance the purpose of the Amateur Radio Service.

- From Foundation for Amateur Radio news release and Dave Knaus, WA9POV



Badger State Smoke Signals

- HEY ED, CAN YOU CALL THE PARAMEDICS? MYRTLE SLIPPED ON THE ICE. AGAIN?

Badger State Smoke Signals

Subscription Form • Regular Individual Subscription Rates

1 year: \$9.75 • 2 years: \$18.00 (save \$1.50) • 3 years: \$26.00 (save \$3.25)

PLEASE PRINT!

Name: _____ Call Sign (if any): _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

☐ 1 year ☐ 2 years ☐ 3 years

☐ New

☐ Renewal

Send this form, with your check or money order, to Jim Decker, WB9UQT, Treasurer, P.O. Box 337, Baraboo, WI 53913. **Please do not send cash!**

Rock River Radio Club Names Ham of the Year, Elects 1992 Officers



In the photo above, the 1992 president of the Rock River Radio Club, Eli Luster, WB9MKZ (left), presents the club's Ham of the Year award to the club's 1991 president, Duane Haas, W9BCV. The presentation was made at the club's Christmas party, which was attended by 54 members and friends at Sunset Hills Golf Club in Beaver Dam. The RRRC will host a tri-county combined meeting and party March, which includes the RRRC, the Green Lake club, and the Watertown club. According to Duane Haas, 27 members attended a recent RRRC meeting, and the club's attendance seems

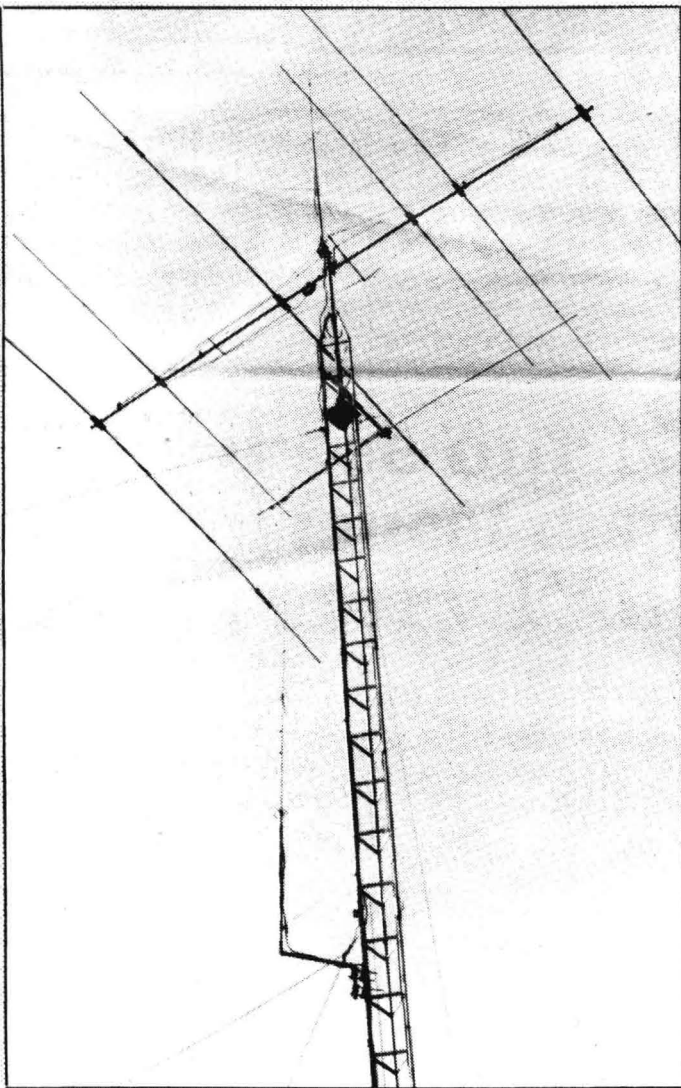


to be increasing. The club's 1992 officers are shown in the photo at right. They are, left to right, President Eli Luster, WB9MKZ; Treasurer Bruce Grahn, N9LMU; Secretary Jack Klein, W9YOA; Vice-President Mark Mullen, N9KQV; and Program Director Dale Marks, WB9ADB. Anyone with an interest in radio or electronics is welcome to attend the club's meetings, held at the Dodge County Sheriff's Department, 141 North Main Street (Highway 26) in Juneau. See the Club Meetings section of *BSSS* for dates and times.

- Photos/info courtesy Duane Haas/W9BCV

The WD9ESU Packet BBS Antenna System

The WD9ESU packet radio BBS uses three antennas to perform its functions of local user access and traffic forwarding and receiving. On top of the tower is the antenna for the LAN frequency, 145.07 MHz. The antenna side-mounted on the left side of the tower is for 145.01 forward/receive, and the small yagi antenna under the big yagi antenna is for 223.656 forward/receive at a data rate of 9600 baud. The big yagi is, of course, for HF DXing, in which Larry does indulge from time to time.



- BSSS staff photo

Dane County Offers Severe Weather Spotter Training



Dane County Emergency Management has arranged for Tornado Spotter Training to be offered at 7 p.m. on three Wednesdays in March. They are: (1) March 4, Deerfield High School, 300 Simonson Blvd.; (2) March 11, Dane County Red Cross, 4860 Sheboygan Avenue, Madison; and (3) March 25, Mount Horeb High School, 305 South 8th Street.

The National Weather Service will present the training. There is no charge for the one to one-and-a-half hour sessions.

Emergency response personnel are encouraged to attend. If you have questions or concerns, or if you have personnel interested in attending, please call Ray Peña at 267-2542. □

Does your club sponsor Amateur Radio classes? Let Badger State Smoke Signals help publicize them! Please send the information to Ken Ebner, K9EN, 822 Wauona Trail, Portage, WI 53901.

SAREX to Fly in March

By Roy Neal, K6DUE

SAREX - the Shuttle Amateur Radio Experiment - will be in orbit in late March. NASA has scheduled STS-45, the space shuttle *Atlantis*, for launch on March 23 at 0801 a.m. EST. There will be four Amateur Radio operators on board, and they have extensive plans for two-meter operations.

Atlantis astronauts David Leestma, N5QWC, and Brian Duffy, N5WQW, hold Technician Class licenses. FCC rules require amateur stations in space to be controlled by at least one Extra Class licensee. The American Radio Relay League had asked the FCC for (a) waiver (of the Extra Class requirement) because of insufficient time for the astronauts to upgrade before the March 23 launch date. And on Friday, January 31, the FCC formally granted the ham astronauts scheduled to fly aboard STS-45 permission to operate from space.

The crew will light up the sky with auroras generated by powerful beams of electrons fired into the atmosphere. The glowing streaks of green, red, and bluish-white produced by atoms struck by the electrons will be visible only in Antarctica, the southernmost tip of Argentina, and southern New Zealand.

But, hundreds of high school students, primarily in California and Japan, will be able to pick up the echoes of the electron beams on special radio receivers distributed by NASA. A camera aboard *Atlantis* will measure the atmospheric response to the electron beams.

The Japanese electron beam machine and the US camera are among 14 scientific instruments to be flown in the cargo bay of *Atlantis* during the eight-day mission. It will be the 46th shuttle flight for NASA, and the second one of 1992.

Six of the 14 instruments will examine regions of the atmosphere ranging from nine miles to more than 150 miles above Earth. Four other instruments will measure solar energy. An atmospheric flight is planned each year over the next 11 years, the duration of an entire solar sunspot cycle.

The spacecraft will be in a high-inclination orbit of 57 degrees, and this will put the astronauts over most of the world, including many stateside passes. They plan to call CQ during much of their operating time, along with making many school contacts, including several in the United States and 8 others in foreign countries.

Operations will be conducted on FM voice only, downlinking on what has become the traditional "Astronaut/Cosmonaut" frequency of 145.55 MHz. However, they will not operate simplex. To work the amateurs on board *Atlantis*, you will have to transmit on an uplink frequency of 144.91, 144.95, or 144.97 MHz.

You will not need an elaborate station to make contact, but the SAREX Planning Group suggests that you have at least a fixed vertical antenna with an ERP of about 100 watts.

Just prior to liftoff and during the flight, you can obtain updated operating schedules and other information by tuning in on HF bulletin stations WA3NAN at the Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland; W5RRR at the Johnson Space Flight Center in Houston, Texas; W6VIO at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California; and ARRL station W1AW at League Headquarters in Newington, Connecticut, for updated facts in bulletin form on when *Atlantis* might be in range. More advanced operators might want to consider checking into the various AMSAT nets to obtain Keplerian elements to use with tracking-type antenna arrays. AMSAT will also be issuing these elements via packet.

To make *Atlantis*' SAREX mission as successful as possible, the League also asked the FCC to waive the requirement for astronaut Kathy Sullivan, who recently passed her Technician Class license (see page 5), and for Belgian astronaut Dirk Frimout, ON1AFD, who has applied for a reciprocal license and will also be aboard. The mission call sign to be used from *Atlantis* will be that of Leestma - N5WQC.

- Newsline, ARRL, Marcia Dunn, Associated Press in *Westlink Report*, 2/12/92



QCWA/162 Member Honored

At the annual meeting of the Quarter Century Wireless Association's Southeast Wisconsin Chapter 162, Travis Baird, W9VQD (right), past director of QCWA, presented Steve Bellgraph, K9ZL, with awards for being continuously licensed. Steve received the call sign W8WEP in June of 1941.

Photo by Edward Konicek, W9NVK

Section Manager's Notes

Continued from page 4

days at 8 p.m.Green Bay area 10-meter Net meets on 28.4 MHz, Sundays at 9 p.m.

Wisconsin Novice Net meets on 3.723 MHz daily at 6 p.m., has K9DHR one of the Net Control

Silent Key

HAROLD DAHLER, K9DTF, 1536 Division Avenue, Sheboygan, WI, died Wednesday, January 29, 1992, at his residence following a lengthy illness. He was 77.

Harvey was entirely devoted to six-meter operation. All of his equipment was carefully designed and built by himself. He will be missed by all of us on six meters.

- James Zabel, W9KNZ, Brookfield, WI

Hungarian ZA Operation Gets OK from ARRL DXCC Desk

Continued from front page

Federation support a number of unlicensed radio enthusiasts.

The PTT publicly announced the beginning of an Amateur Radio Service in Albania. Further, the PTT has had contacts with ITU and IARU and arranged for training of Albanians in the technical, operating, and regulatory aspects of Amateur Radio.

In the future, the ARRL DXCC Desk will only accredit those operations approved by the Albanian PTT.

- ARRL Special Bulletin 7, 2/3/92

Good Ole' Mode One



Stations who says, "Checking into the Net is a great way to improve your Morse Code speed and traffic handling abilities."

KN9ENO is now Assistant EC for Outagamie County.

Kettle Moraine RA members have new blue and white name badges with club name encircling a kettle drum with call and full name to the right of the drum.

Sorry to report Silent Key W9TVA. □

Latest Call Signs Issued by FCC

The following is a list of the FCC's most recently issued call signs as of February 1, 1992.

| District | Group A Extra | Group B Advanced | Group C Tech/Gen | Group D Novice |
|----------|------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 0 | AA0HI | KF0WO | N0QZE | KB0JWR |
| 1 | AA1AN | KD1GQ | N1LHQ | KA1ZQK |
| 2 | AA2HZ | KF2GI | N2PJK | KB2ODH |
| 3 | WU3X | KE3BG | N3LNX | KA3ZSF |
| 4 | AC4ND | KO4QR | ** | KD4JRJ |
| 5 | AB5DT | KI5XL | N5YRO | KB5QZP |
| 6 | AB6IU | KM6PF | ** | KD6FLB |
| 7 | AA7MY | KG7YG | N7WCG | KB7OOB |
| 8 | AA8GA | KF8RY | N8RYT | KB8NLT |
| 9 | AA9CX | KF9HV | N9OAX | KB9HMF |
| Hawaii | ** | AH6LT | WH6EO | WH6COW |
| Alaska | ** | AL7NW | WL7BO | WL7CDX |
| PR | ** | KP4TK | | WP4KVR |

** All call signs in this group have been issued in this area.

- ARRL Bulletin 13, 2/2/92



OUR WANT ADS GET RESULTS

WANTED: Commodore 128-D in good shape. Will pay fair and reasonable price. Also want software for 128. Vincent Mulvey, W9NMP, 2251 Woodbridge Ct., Plover, WI 54467. Call (715) 344-4352 evenings.

THERE IS NO CHARGE for ads in SSB. Send ads to K9EN or K9ZZ. The addresses are on page 2. □



Tri-County Amateur Radio Club Presents: HAMFEST 1992 to be held on Sunday, March 22

AT
**Jefferson County Fairgrounds
Activity Center**
Hwy. 18 West, Jefferson, WI
from 8:00 A.M. until 2:00 P.M.

YES, WE ARE BACK TO OUR OLD HAUNTS — GOOD OLD MARCH

Good Food
Door Prizes
Electricity Available
Some Space Available for Personally-Owned Tables (You Set-Up)

A SPECIAL NOTE TO VENDORS:
Special needs can be handled if we are contacted in advance.

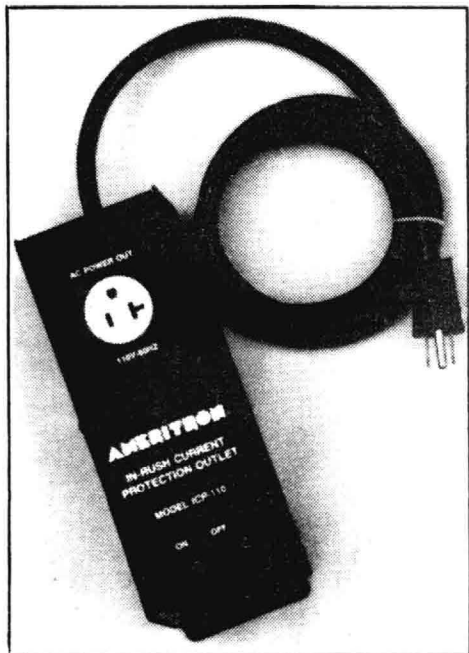
Plate Lunches and Beverage provided by Jefferson County 4-H. HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE!

TALK IN ON THE 145.49 REPEATER

ADMISSION: \$4.00
6-Foot Table Space — \$4.00 • Some 8-Footers — \$5.00
RESERVE YOUR SPACE EARLY!

SEND YOUR SASE TO:
TCARC, W9MQB
213 Frederick
Fort Atkinson, WI 53538

New Products



Ameritron In-Rush Current Protector

Ameritron announces the new ICP-120 or ICP-240 InRush Current Protector for linear amplifiers, priced at just \$79.00.

Here is the best investment in protection and long-term amplifier reliability you will ever make. The Ameritron InRush Current Protector works with any and all linear amplifiers, it protects both expensive tubes and costly amplifier components from excessive current at amplifier turn-on, and its cost is less than a single repair bill. Installation is a cinch: simply plug your amplifier's AC cord into the Ameritron InRush Current Protector box, then plug the protector's plug into the wall outlet.

The Ameritron ICP-120/ICP-240 step-starts your amplifier through a high-power current limiting resistor. The resistor is then shorted with a relay to give a startup sequence that is easy on the tube and power supply components. This stops damaging inrush current, allows your cold tube to warm up slowly, and maximizes life. Excessive inrush current to cold tube filaments is the leading cause of tube failures. The second most common failure is shorted diodes caused by high charging current to filter capacitors. Both of these problems are eliminated with the Ameritron ICP-120/ICP-240.

All Ameritron amplifiers have this critical protection. Now, you can add the protection to your own amplifier without complicated wiring. Momentary high voltage "spikes" can also cause damage to your amplifier. The Ameritron InRush Current Protector has built-in varistors to absorb these spikes before they cause damage.

The Ameritron InRush Current Protector work with nearly all linear amplifiers. Use the model ICP-120 for 120 volts up to 12 amps, or the ICP-240 for 240 volts up to 20 amps continuous duty.

To order, contact any Ameritron dealer, or see the next new product story for the Ameritron's address and telephone numbers.

- Ameritron news release



Ameritron QSK-5 T/R Switch

Ameritron's new QSK-T T/R switch is an easy-to-install external adapter that adds full break-in operation to your high-power amplifier. Now you can enjoy operating full break-in CW, packet, AMTOR, and other modes requiring high-speed T/R switching.

amplifier. Further, the QSK-5 can be switched over to your new amplifier in the future for station equipment upgrading. Additionally, the QSK-5 is totally silent, and is six times faster than mechanical vacuum relays!

Ameritron's QSK-5 uses silent, electronic PIN diode switching for lightning-fast operation. Its exclusive sure switch handshaking eliminates hot switching of the amplifier, minimizes TVI, RFI, key clicks, and possible damage to your linear amplifier. There is also an exclusive Amp Saver feature that completely turns off your amplifier's plate current between dots, dashes, and words. Your amplifier lasts longer, runs cooler, and works full break-in while running quiet as a mouse!

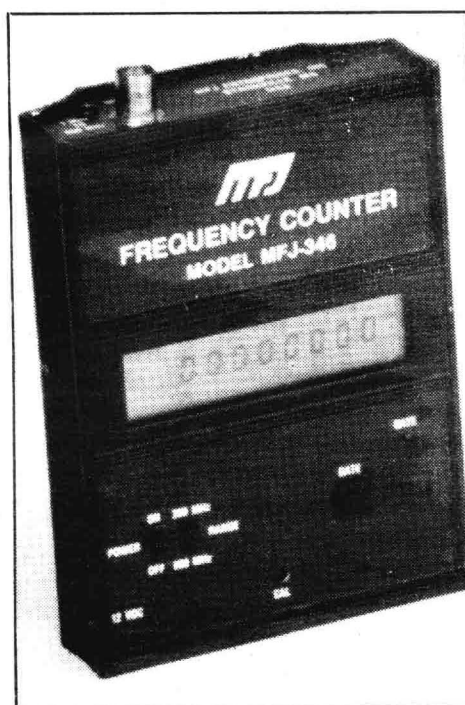
Mechanical vacuum relay QSK switches simply cannot compare to the QSK-5 in speed or quality. As transceiver switching gets faster, mechanical relays will simply not be able to switch fast enough. Electronic PIN diode switching like that used in the QSK-5 is the ultimate solution.

Installation of the QSK-5 is a cinch. You simply plug in a few cables. No complicated internal wiring!

The QSK-5 handles 2500 watts P.E.P., and 2000 watts in normal amateur service (SWR below 1.5:1), handles 750 watts on continuous modes like RTTY, SSTV, and FM. Optional cooling fan (CF-5, \$39.95) allows sustained operation at 1500 watts in any mode. Use with positive voltage keying up to 25 volts. Model QSK-5 for 120 VAC; Model QSK-5X for 240 VAC.

The QSK-5 is priced at \$349.00. To order, contact any Ameritron dealer. For more information, or for the location of your nearest Ameritron dealer, contact Ameritron, 921 Louisville Road, Starkville, MS 39759. Telephone (601) 323-5869; FAX (601) 323-6551; or order toll-free at (800) 647-1800.

- Ameritron news release



MFJ-346 600 MHz Frequency Counter

MFJ Enterprises, Inc. announces the release of the new MFJ-346 600 MHz 10-Digit Frequency Counter.

Here is a terrific station accessory with literally thousands of applications! The MFJ-346 measures frequencies up to 600 MHz with utmost accuracy. It has a ten-digit LCD readout with large, quarter-inch digits that can be viewed even in direct sunlight.

MFJ-346 is a perfect companion for MFJ's SWR Analyzer. It can also be used for exact frequency measurements of HF transmitters/transceivers, and even measuring unknown frequencies when placed near mystery antennas. It also measures L.O. signals in receivers, and reads the oscillation frequency in classic regenerative receivers. Thousands of applications! Your imagination is the only limit!

The MFJ-346 utilizes high-speed ASIC and custom LCD technology. Four

resolutions. Accuracy is 1 PPM. Uses 9-volt battery, or 12 VDC with optional MFJ-1312 (\$12.95).

It comes with MFJ's full, one-year unconditional guarantee.

The MFJ-346 is priced at \$189.95. Ordering information is at the end of the New Products column.

- MFJ news release



MFJ-1214 Multi-Mode Communications Package

MFJ Enterprises, Inc. proudly announces the new and inexpensive MFJ-1214 MultiMode Communications package. The new MFJ-1214 answers numerous requests for a multi-mode computer interface package especially for HF enthusiasts. This all-in-one package includes the high-performance MFJ-1214 MultiMode computer interface, AC power supply, software, computer and radio cables (add mike plug to fit your transceiver), power supply, extensive manual, and Jump-Start™ Guide. The MFJ-1214 package plugs together in a flash, and lets you transmit and receive RTTY, ASCII, CW, FAX, and WeFAX.

Three versions of the MFJ-1214 are produced for various computers. The MFJ-1214PC works with IBM compatibles with VGA, EGA, or Hercules plus 512K RAM and 8 MHz or faster speed. MFJ-1214AM works with Amiga. MFJ-1214 works with Atari ST. Graphics depends on system used.

The MFJ-1214 interface is tops in performance, and includes true DCD circuitry with front panel LED for easy signal tuning. The software program is also menu driven and easy to use. On RTTY, the system gives you all standard speeds and shifts. An on-screen tuning indicator is included, plus you get a full text editor that saves and transmits text files.

Working CW is terrific with the MFJ-1214. In addition to automatic speed tracking, and on-frequency tuning indicator, it has type-ahead buffer for transmitting, adjustable sidetone, transmit tune, and more.

You can copy high-resolution weather pictures directly on 16.410 MHz, zoom in on three or four state areas, and copy AP news photos on 20.738 MHz (sample

frequencies: many more available!).

This complete MFJ-1214 package puts you on top of today's hottest digital modes for HF, and it comes with MFJ's one full year No Matter What™ guarantee.

The MFJ-1214 is priced at \$149.95. Ordering information is at the end of the New Products column.

- MFJ news release



MFJ-1272BX TNC/MIC Switchbox

MFJ Enterprises, Inc. announces the release of the new MFJ-1272B and MFJ-1272BX TNC/MIC Switchbox for quick and easy packeting. MFJ-1272B for \$34.95, or MFJ-1272BX for \$39.95.

MFJ's new TNC/MIC switch is the most clever accessory yet for packet radio setups. It lets you switch between your microphone and TNC or multimode controller by pushing a single button. Everything plugs in: no soldering or wiring of complicated cables is necessary! Just plug the pre-wired cables into your rig's microphone socket, TNC/multimode controller socket, and you are ready to operate! Small switchbox measures only 1.25 X 3.25 X 4.0 inches (H,W,D), and fits anywhere. No more unplugging microphone or TNC cables to swap modes. Super convenient!

MFJ's new TNC/MIC Switch works with HF, VHF, and UHF radios using 8-pin mic connectors. This includes Kenwood, Icom, Yaesu, Alinco, Ranger, and more. Simple plug-in jumpers let you quick-set the switchbox for operation with virtually any transceiver. Comes factory set for Kenwoods and Alincos. Includes easy-to-understand instructions. Has audio in and speaker jacks. Black finish matches any transceiver. Once you install this switchbox, you will wonder how you ever got along without it!

MFJ-1272B for MFJ TNCs and multimode controllers and TAPR TNC-2 clones. Model MFJ-1272BX wired for connector on AEA PK-232.

It comes with MFJ's one full year unconditional guarantee.

For more information, or to order MFJ products, contact any MFJ dealer, or MFJ Enterprises, Inc., P.O. Box 494, Mississippi State, MS 39762, or call (601) 323-5869; FAX (601) 323-6551; TELEX (601) 323-6551, or order toll-free at (800) 647-1800.

- MFJ news release

More Than Just a Catalog

AntennasWest, manufacturer and marketer of a large number of innovative Amateur Radio antennas and other products, including QSL cards, has recently published a catalog. This catalog, however, goes beyond being a mere list of products and prices.

Jim Stevens, KK7C, owner of AntennasWest tells, in interesting detail in *Radio Adventure*, how a number of the antennas his company makes were developed. He provides the theory behind the antennas and why they work the way they work. It all makes for some great reading, and is anything but dull. The catalog is available for \$1.00 from AntennasWest, Box 50062-SS, Provo, Utah 84605.

Badger State Smoke Signals will have a small supply of the catalogs available at the Madison Swapfest.

Whether you get your AntennasWest Catalog by mail or from the BSSS table in Madison, I don't think you will find it boring. I do think you will learn something, and I know you'll read about some intriguing antennas. You just might order one - or more.

AntennasWest is also looking for dealers for its unique products. If you are a dealer in Amateur Radio equipment, and are interested in handling AntennasWest products, please call Jim Stevens at (800) 926-7373 for more information.

- Review by Jim Romelfanger, K9ZZ

WISCONSIN QSO PARTY PARTICIPANTS are reminded that their photos are needed for publication with the official results in the June issue of BSSS. Please send photos to BSSS editor Jim Romelfanger, K9ZZ, 412 1/2 Ash Street, Baraboo, WI 53913, as soon as possible after the contest. Thank you!

Illegal Use of Transmitters

Guest Editorial by
Mark Thompson, WB9QZB
P.O. Box 357
Mount Prospect, IL 60056

Recently, the RAIN Dial-Up Service aired an interview with a representative from Radio Shack to discuss the new Radio Shack 2-meter HT. It was a very interesting interview and, like the 10-meter SSB mobile introduced a few years ago, it should attract more people to the service. In fact, Radio Shack should be congratulated because of its support of ham radio, and in particular for making books and materials available to the general public who might be interested in becoming a ham.

There is a potential problem though, and it doesn't start or end with Radio Shack. That is the illegal use of transmitters by those who aren't licensed to use those transmitters. Easy availability of transmitters for ham bands and the marine band in a Radio Shack store or ham dealer can contribute to the illegal operation already occurring.

For example, there is a great deal of illegal activity below and above the CB band, much of it caused by modified ham radio transmitters or modified CBs. Some of this activity frequently spills over into the low-end of 10 meters.

The Uniden 2510 is easily modified to cover from 26 - 30 MHz by cutting a couple traces on the circuit board and adding a jumper. I own a Yaesu FT-747 GX, and a simple cut of a wire provides transmit capability from 1.5 - 30 MHz. In fact, I just read a packet bulletin about illegal CB activity in the 20-meter band.

There have also been numerous violations recently by hams and non-hams using modified 2-meter and dual-band HTs in the public service band to make unauthorized police transmissions. In addition, aircraft band HTs and VHF marine radios are readily available from ham dealers or Radio Shack.

My first reaction is to require the manufacturers to design their equipment so that it is more difficult to

modify their transmitters. There is certainly more the manufacturers could do, rather than just allowing someone to snip a wire or a trace on a circuit board.

Unfortunately, this approach has the potential of limiting the commercial use of the equipment in services other than ham radio which might limit the market for ham rigs. This would require the manufacturers to design rigs more specifically for a particular service. If ham rigs are designed properly, the general coverage receive and scan capabilities we've come to enjoy on modern transceivers should remain.

And then there are the ham radio dealers. There are a number of dealers who will sell any transmitter to anyone. In many cases, the dealer knows or suspects that the individual is not authorized to use the radio in the service it's designed for, but sells it to them anyway. Now, I know it's not currently illegal to sell a transmitter to someone who is not licensed, but there should be some degree of responsibility by the dealers.

But there is another alternative. A legal one. The FCC could require that when a transmitter is sold, proof of proper FCC license to use the equipment would need to be shown in order to purchase the transmitter. Yes, this would inconvenience some. For example, those interested in ham radio would have to buy a receiver instead of a transmitter to monitor the ham bands if they wanted gear from a dealer, although rigs homebrewed or purchased from an individual could be exempt.

There are several ways to classify a dealer. A wife would have to buy a gift certificate rather than the actual rig to give as a gift. Besides, how many spouses know the exact model number or brand anyway? There has already been a precedent set here, when the FCC banned the sale of amplifiers capable of operating in a certain frequency range. Restricting sales to properly licensed operators would help stop the problem of illegal operation before it begins.

Of course certain devices would be automatically exempt, such as cellular phones, cordless phones, and CBs.

So, what is required to make these changes occur? First, it is time the ham radio manufacturers become responsible and begin to design their rigs to make unauthorized mods either difficult or non-existent. They

could set up an advisory council to discuss standards regarding this.

The legal approach would require a rule-making petition that would have to be filed with the FCC and work its way through the process. This type of legislation would have to be broad in scope, but specific in nature.

If you believe these kinds of safeguards are needed to reduce the potential of abuse in our ham bands and other bands, you need to express your views. First, write the major manufacturers today. If they don't hear from you, they won't believe it's an issue anyone takes seriously. There are very few good reasons to be able to transmit outside of the ham bands anyway, as long as the manufacturers continue to provide general coverage receive.

Now, I know there are those who need to use MARS or CAP frequencies. As in the case of the 10-meter amplifier ban, proof of license should be required to make the appropriate mods.

Then write your ARRL Director and Vice-Director and express your ideas regarding this. The ARRL should be taking a leadership role in this issue. They won't, if you aren't concerned and don't write to them.

If you do nothing, you may have to start honing your DFing skills when illegal activity appears on your favorite band.

If you want to hear the RAIN Dial-Up Service, including my editorials, you can call (708) 299-INFO. The RAIN Dial-Up is updated weekly. See you next month. □

Packet Address - WB9QZB @ KB9DIP.IL.USA.NA □

BSSS Editor's note: The interview with the Radio Shack staffer to which Mark refers was indeed aired. However, the Radio Shack executive did not understand that it would be aired; he apparently thought it to be nothing more than the usual, run-of-the-mill interview about a new Radio Shack product, in this case, the new 2-meter hand-held. A letter from the RS staffer has recently appeared in CQ and QST, explaining this. In the letters, he emphasized that, since the interview WAS aired, it gave the appearance of a "commercial" for the handie-talkie, which was NOT his or Radio Shack's intention. The letter says that the RS staffer did not expect nor intend that that interview be aired. □

Ft. Worth Hams Help Police

An experimental program is underway in Fort Worth to let the police see how Amateur Radio operators can help fight crime.

Amateurs registered in the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) have been performing shopping mall parking lot watches in two of the busiest shopping malls in Fort Worth. Each mall has several Amateur Radio operators patrol the lot and report to the lead operator, who also has a police handy-talkie for direct communications to police units working the mall also. The amateurs communicate between themselves on a discrete VHF simplex frequency.

This innovation is part of the "Code Blue" program, a crime-fighting scheme instituted by the Fort Worth Police Department. This is a good way for amateurs to interface with local governments, in addition to storm spotting in severe weather events.

(And is, we believe, a good use of amateur frequencies "in the public interest, convenience and necessity." - Westlink Report editor.)

- Westlink Report, 1/29/92

FCC Changes to New Gettysburg Address

Here is a new address for all amateur license applications and modifications:

Federal Communications Commission, 1270 Fairfield Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325-7245.

- The ARRL Letter, 1/27/92

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Small Talk

By Richard R. Regent
Section Manager,
Wisconsin Section ARRL
5003 South 26th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53221

• ARRL-affiliated clubs which sponsor ARRL-approved hamfests or conventions may retain 10% of the total ARRL publication sales at said event, provided that (1) no ARRL Headquarters staff are involved in manning the League booth for the purpose of selling publications, (2) the club shall reconcile the consignment with Headquarters prior to retaining any funds, and (3) national conventions are excluded.

• To introduce new hams to the benefits of League membership, a trial League membership shall be offered to newly-licensed individuals for a period of four months, and shall cost one-third of annual membership. That's \$10 right now.

New Contest Club Formed in Wisconsin

The Wisconsin Amateur Contest Organization (WACO) has ten members, mostly from the Winnebago and Outagamie Counties area, who are interested in contests and general Amateur Radio activities. Club President, KB9AIT, Gary of Neenah, has applied for League affiliation, and will soon be receiving a handsome Charter of Affiliation. The Club newsletter is written by KD9BC who, besides editor chores, handles a packet radio BBS.

Their meetings are the first Sunday of January,

• A proposal that Jarvis Island be added to the ARRL DXCC Countries List was defeated by the DX Advisory Committee (DXAC). Countries remaining under committee consideration are Tatar SSR; Pratas Island (China); and Pontification Basilica of the Holy House and His Dependencies (Vatican).

• ARRL National Conventions coming up: August 20-23, 1992, Los Angeles, California, Airport Marriott Hotel; August 13-15, 1993, Huntsville, Alabama; June 10-12, 1994, Arlington, Texas.

• Volunteer Resources Committee of the ARRL Board of Directors shall develop a program to motivate and train Section Managers and section-level appointees. This is something I'm looking forward to seeing. (Are the training pants furnished, Rich? - editor.)

• Hiram, the ARRL Headquarters electronic bulletin board service, shall be expanded to provide six or more incoming lines with modems capable of operating at 9600 baud. A state-of-the-art computer shall be purchased to support this membership service.

• As a companion to the *Now You're Talking* study guide, there is a study of producing a videotape theory course covering FCC elements 2 and 3A. □

- Rich Regent, K9GDF



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Racine Megacycle Club

Arne Moxness, KA9ZPY, Secretary

3345 Newman Road • Racine, WI 53406



GILMORE RADIO CLASS - 1992: Here are the five aspiring hams-to-be in the 1992 radio class at Gilmore Middle School in Racine. They are, left to right: Mark Lewno, Jim Miller, Tracy Roscizewski, Brande Gorsiske, and Kevin Marten.

- Photo courtesy Racine Megacycle Club

Meeting Minutes February 10, 1992

The meeting started informally at 7:30 PM. This was an introductory evening for potential new hams. The visiting young boys and their parents got a chance to see the various displays that the hams in the club had set up. Displays like how to solder on circuit boards, how to read a tester, how packet works, and to see a real radio station in operation. This whole thing was the brain child of our very energetic and active lady ham Cheryl, WS9P.

The next month will be the final of this show for young people and for new hams. About 30 hams and visitors were present. A few of the hams who helped were Bob, W0WLN, Bill, W9OVZ, and Rev. Jim, WA0PFV. Cheryl ran the transmitter on 10 meters herself.

The formal short meeting was called to order at 8:15 PM by President Brian, WD9FRH. The previous meeting minutes were approved as shown in the *Badger State Smoke Signals*. Treasurer Dave, WB9ZIO, gave the treasurers report.

Present balance is \$452.13.

New Business

President Brian, WD9FRH, brought up the need to purchase a lean to/shelter for the food for the next Field Day. A motion was made, seconded and approved to purchase the shelter.

Rev. Jim, WA0PFV, asked for participation by the hams in the Wis. QSO Party March 1.

Jim, KB9CCY, asked for help on the Field Day to bring out the equipment to the site, which will be again in Armstrong Park.

Cheryl, WS9P, was thanked for her initiative to hold the program for new hams, and she in turn thanked the hams who helped to make it possible.

The Goodie Box (junk) was given to Bob, W0WLN.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m., and some of the hams met for coffee at the restaurant.

Respectfully submitted:
Arne, KA9ZPY, Secretary

Another Balloon-Carried Amateur Radio Flight Scheduled

If all goes as planned, the Hillsboro Balloon Team plans to have another BCAR flight on the weekend of March 21 and 22, 1992, with a liftoff time of 10 a.m. Of course, this is subject to what the weather conditions dictate. Listen for launch updates on the Sunday morning swap net on 146.88/Baraboo, as well as on the packet radio network.

This flight should not only be fun and exciting, but educational as well. It will again be quite different from any of the packages flown previously.

The package for this flight will include a 2-meter repeater very similar to the one carried in August, 1991 (440 input, 147.48 MHz output). The power will again be about one watt. Now, one watt doesn't sound like a lot of power, but on the last flight that one watt was heard 800 miles away!

That's the fun part. Now, here is the educational portion. This flight will help to study how different frequencies are propagated from different altitudes. The package will carry many beacons, all transmitting about 50 milliwatts of power. Again, that doesn't sound like a lot, but a beacon on the most recent flight was transmitting about 30 milliwatts - and it was heard in California and in Europe!

Here is a list of the planned beacons

and their frequencies:

| | |
|-------------|----------------------------------------------|
| 1750 Meters | 170 kHz (exact frequency not yet determined) |
| 160 Meters | 1.843 MHz |
| 80 Meters | 3.686 MHz |
| 40 Meters | 7.159 MHz |
| 30 Meters | 10.138 MHz |
| 20 Meters | 14.318 MHz |
| 10 Meters | 28.322 MHz |
| 6 Meters | 50.35 MHz |

We are looking for ground stations that can "run" the beacon frequencies. The beacon will be a periodic CW message. When a beacon ends its transmission, I would like to find a station who could then ask if anyone is hearing that beacon and, if so, what its signal strength is. I would like to have a log of all replies received to the inquiry.

If you are interested in helping with this project, please contact me. Your assistance will be appreciated!

The package on this flight may be on display at the Madison Swapfest on April 5, 1992. We hope we see you there.

- Joe Mayenschein, WB9SBD
Route 1, Box 235A
Hillsboro, WI 54634
(608) 489-2794

Northern Wisconsin Radio Club

- Since 1923 -

Steve Hart, KA9OMC, Secretary

Route 1, Box 54 • Knapp, WI 54749



Greetings, NWRC members and guests.

The last meeting of the NWRC was held January 28, 1992, at the Peppermill Restaurant in Menomonie.

President Ken, KE9CS, conducted the meeting and presented a video on applications of CAD welding. The program was very detailed, and is recommended if you are considering some tower installations.

Between video segments, Rich Jen-neman, N9MEH, spoke about his Amateur sales store at Stanley, and also passed out some catalogs and fliers on gear. Rich is also interested in handling used gear, but indicated it was hard to come by.

Ken passed out some charts showing probability of lightning strikes, and everyone received an almanac, courtesy of WEAU, Channel 13.

Balance at this meeting was \$150.

Secretary Steve, KA9OMC, read the announcement of the club's annual auction on February 25.

The first three *Who's Who in Ham Radio* books were sold to W9MEO, N9MEH, and WD9IJY. The cost is \$15 per copy, and the club profits about \$5 a copy. Copies can be ordered through the secretary. If you require it to be mailed to you, please add \$5 for shipping.

The next meeting of the NWRC is

scheduled for March 24 at the Peppermill Restaurant in the Thunderbird Mall in Menomonie. Meeting time is 7:30 p.m.

Attendance

| | | |
|------------|--------|--------|
| N9KMY | KE9CS | KA9OMC |
| KA9PVY | N9ISN | KE9VA |
| N9HNI | KB9AGC | N9MEH |
| W9MEO | N9GIN | N9GOB |
| WD9IJY | KF9CU | K0DL |
| K9IAG | W9BAR | W9ZZI |
| NX9Z | N9KIP | WU9R |
| Dave Kraft | | |

Local Amateur News

NWRC members handled communications for the Menomonie Winter Carnival Balloon Race across Lake Menomine on February 8 and 9. About 20 hams assisted from the Eau Claire and Menomonie area. Thanks to all from Jim, NX9F.

A SkyWarn training class will be held in Menomonie for all interested on March 7 from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Myrtle Werth Medical Center's education room. Please call Tom Johnson, N9KMZ, at (715) 232-2333 to arrange a place for you. Your certification is good for two years. □

Calendar

Courtesy of Racine Megacycle Club

February

Feb 15 Klondyke Derby, B.S.A.

March

Mar 2 Packet Club meeting
Mar 7 Testing at Red Cross
Mar 9 Megacycle Club meeting
Mar 22 Hamfest at Jefferson
Mar 29 Hamfest at Grays Lake

April

Apr 4 Testing at Red Cross
Apr 5 Hamfest at Madison
Apr 6 Packet Club meeting
Apr 12 Hamfest at Rockford
Apr 13 Megacycle Club meeting
Apr 28 Lakeshore Club meeting

May

May 2 Testing at Red Cross
May 2 Hamfest at Cedarburg
May 4 Packet Club meeting
May 9 Hamfest at Manitowoc
May 11 Megacycle Club meeting
May 17 Hamfest at Peotone

June

Jun 6 Testing at Red Cross
Jun 7 Hamfest at Princeton
Jun 8 Megacycle Club meeting
Jun 12 Air Show at Racine
Jun 13 Air Show at Racine
Jun 14 Air show at Racine
Jun 14 Lighthouse Run
Jun 14 Hamfest at Willow Springs
Jun 27 Field Day
Jun 28 Field Day

From the Editor

Absent Club Information

Information from two participating clubs does not appear in this issue: Central Wisconsin Radio Amateurs and Manitowoc County Radio Amateurs. No information was received by our printer's deadline. We must have each issue completed about ten days before the first Tuesday of the following month. If we miss the printer's deadline, we may have to wait one full week before an issue can be printed.

Modem for BSSS? Probably.

To help our participating clubs get their information to us on a timely basis, we are going to add a modem to the computer system here at BSSS World Headquarters. We'll let you know when it's on line.

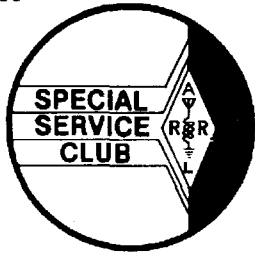
The system will not be auto-answer. That means that, to do a file transfer by modem, you will have to give your harried editor advance notice so he can be ready to receive your file(s). Ah, technology..



Riverland Amateur Radio Club

Dick Low, KØJYB,
Secretary

1520 Nakomis Avenue
La Crosse, WI 54603



Meeting Minutes February 4, 1992

The February 1992 meeting of the Riverland Amateur Radio Club was called to order by President Walt, AA9AW, at 7:00 p.m. The minutes of the last meeting were read by Secretary Dick, KØJYB. A correction was made by Walt in that he entertained a motion rather than making the motion, and Feroz informed us that Karen Bast is an instructor at UWL, not a professor. The corrections were made.

The treasurer's report was given by Duane, W9HWQ, and accepted as read.

Old Business

Our Field Day Chairman, Bill Wood, KE9XQ, was unable to be at the meeting, and asked Walt to pass out a questionnaire regarding Field Day.

New Business

Joe Mezera, WA9SOQ, has a tape of Hams In Space. Joe suggested that we make copies of the tape, and distribute them to Science Departments in the schools. The copies could be made for about three dollars each. Joe made a motion that we send copies of the tapes to schools and science departments in the surrounding area. The motion was seconded by Rick, KV9U. Motion passed.

Feroz moved that we have a moment of silence in memory of our silent key, John Young, K9KAZ.

Feroz, WU9N, informed us that the Annual picnic will be held on the 13th of June, 1992. The location (Granddad's Bluff) and the format will be the same as last year, such as bringing your own food and beverage. The picnic will be open to members, family and friends of RARC, including neighboring Ham clubs. Feroz moved that the sum of \$25.00 be paid in the month of May for park rental. The motion was seconded by George, KE9PL. Motion carried. Feroz also moved that the sum of \$50.00 be allowed for charcoal, flatware etc. to be used at the picnic. Seconded by John, KA9ETH. Motion carried.

Our program chairman, Feroz, announced that Walt will give us a presentation on the Decibel. Following the program, Police officer Raj Ramnarace will be our main speaker.

Next month, Van will give a presentation on Smith Antenna charts, and Lyle Ostrander, a former FAA flight controller, will talk on direction finding.

Our guests and visitors introduced themselves. Thomas Lightfoot told us that he is waiting for his new license to arrive. John Leslie is studying the code, and Roger Christenson, formerly W4TDC, is studying to renew his license. Mike Warnock WN9P also introduced himself, and has just received his license.

Rick, KV9U, reported on the Thursday evening Ham Radio classes. There were 16 students, and 5 or 6 of them were under 16 years of age and several of the people were surprisingly interested in CW.

Scotty, KA9FOX, gave a report on the success rate of the TV ads and the newspaper ads. Scott will be on the radio, being interviewed by Mike Hayes on Thursday, February 5, the subject being on Amateur Radio.

Dick Kleppe, KØKTP, was responsible for five of the students who are attending the Ham Radio class. Dick received a round of applause.

Kent, W9LZQ, discussed the Trailer regarding problems with the flaking paint and the letters that are falling off one side. There also is a brake problem to be solved.

Walt, AA9AW, gave a nice presentation regarding the Decibel.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Raj Ramnarace, an officer with the La Crosse Police Department, gave a nice presentation regarding automobile theft. Leaving keys in the car is strictly taboo, and is an invitation to trouble. One should also park your car in a well-lighted area at night. Automobile burglar alarms were also discussed, and those with a remote pager were recommended. Raj's report was very interesting and appreciated.

Submitted by Dick, KØJYB

Meeting Attendance

| | |
|-------------------|---------|
| Dick Low | KØJYB |
| Duane Fruechte | W9HWQ |
| Van Elston | WA9FIO |
| Roger Christenson | |
| Hugh Barker | KAØEJZ |
| Jim Brooker | N9DBK |
| Dick Kleppe | KØKTP |
| Kent Helman | W9LZQ |
| Feroz Ghouse | WU9N |
| George Kroner | KE9PL |
| Charlie Burch | KA9UUK |
| Mike Warnock | WN9P |
| John Jorenby | KA9ETH |
| Karl L. Olberg | W4ST |
| Judy Williams | N9LGV |
| Rick Williams | KV9U |
| Dallas Miller | K9LEC |
| L. F. Bentzen | K9EGO |
| Arthur M. Osborn | WØJDC |
| Thomas Lightfoot | Pending |
| Ralph Jahimak | WA9OAE |
| Greg A. Miller | KA9FOZ |
| Joe Mezera | WA9SOQ |
| Dean Summers | KQØC |
| Tom Gromacki | N9KIA |
| Gary Countryman | KD9RL |
| Bob Wilson | N9LZK |
| Scott Neader | KA9FOX |
| Clarence Crum | N9NXW |
| Phil Ueling | W9UP |
| Gary Webb | NI9V |
| Scott Hurd | KB9GCV |

Taylor County Area Amateur Radio Club

Mike Schoenfuss, N9GHZ, Secretary

Abbotsford, WI 54405-0401

Clark/Taylor County Amateur Radio News

By Mike Schoenfuss, N9GHZ
P.O. Box 401
Abbotsford, WI 54405-0401

Congratulations to:

- The new officers of the Taylor County Area Amateur Radio Club for the 1992 calendar year: N9GEN, President; KB9BLV, Vice-President; N9GHZ, Secretary; and WD9FWP, Treasurer.

- N9GHZ, who upgraded from General to Advanced Class at the VE exam session held January 11, 1992 at Marshfield, WI.

- Nathan Newman, N9NDT, of Gilman, and Tom Sahr, N9MED, of rural Lublin, both students at Gilman Junior High School who were recognized for perfect school attendance records. N9MED and N9NDT both had perfect attendance for the fourth quarter of the 1990/1991 school year, and N9NDT had perfect attendance for the entire school year.

Results of October 5, 1991 Medford VE Exam Session

The first-ever FCC Volunteer Examiner Amateur Radio license examination session held in Medford, WI was conducted on October 10, 1991. The exam session was conducted by the Tomahawk VE team, assisted by VEs from the Taylor County Area Amateur Radio Club. It was held in the Multi-Purpose Building at the Taylor County Fairgrounds in Medford. Unfortunately, we had more examiners than examinees! Three individuals did pass exams and/or upgrade their licenses. N9IDW, Lublin, passed the 20 WPM code exam to upgrade to Extra Class. Tom Giffin, Abbotsford, passed the Element 2 (Novice) theory exam. N9NDT, Gilman, passed the Element 3A (Technician theory) exam to qualify for a Technician class license.

The club now has three local Extra Class operators who are certified as VEs: N9IDW (Lublin); N9GEN (Medford); and WD9C (Medford). NZ9U, Dorchester, is also working on getting his certification.

Another VE exam session will be held in Medford on April 11, 1992. See "The Test Point" column of *Smoke Signals* for all the details.

New Taylor County Area 2-Meter Repeater on the Air

For those who are not yet aware of it, there is a new 2-meter repeater on the air in the greater Taylor County area. It is located near Sheldon, WI, and operates on 145.47 MHz (-600 kHz offset). It is owned and maintained by Walt, N9LIE, Sheldon. The repeater antenna is up about 100 feet, and output is about 70 watts.

This repeater was formerly owned and operated by K9ZVZ from a location near Fall Creek, WI, in Eau Claire county.

The Taylor County Area Amateur Radio Club was looking into the possibility of linking the club's 147.15 repeater with the Sheldon machine, but no further action has been taken of late.

Miscellaneous Information

- Anyone interested in a radio they can use to get on 10 meters with a 23-channel Cobra CB radio, in good condition, is for sale, and should be capable of being converted for use on 10 meters. If interested, contact Mark at Kramer's IGA, phone (715) 223-2378 in the daytime.

- Brian, KB9HCT, of Withee, now has a 10-meter transceiver, a Uniden HR-2600.

- Rich, N9MEH, and Jo, N9MEI, Stanley, now have 2-meter band SSB and 6-meter band gear.

- I have information there is supposedly a nightly slow CW practice net on 28.350 MHz (10-meter band). The net is supposedly sponsored by some Wausau area hams. I'm not sure if it's still in operation, but it might be worth checking out if you want some code practice.

- On June 3, 1991, N9GHZ donated to the Abbotsford Public Library a copy of the ARRL publication *From Spark to Space: A Pictorial Journey Through 75 Years of Amateur Radio*. The book is basically a photo album, tracing Amateur Radio's history over the past 75 years.

If you know of someone who might be interested in seeing such a book, particularly young people, please pass this information along to them.

- For those in the Medford/Taylor County area who have personal computers and telephone modems, or at least have access to them, there's a landline computer bulletin board you might want to check out. It's called MIBBS (Medford International Bulletin Board System), and the phone number is (715) 748-4614. It can be accessed at baud rates from 9600 down to 300, however NO downloading is permitted at the 300 baud rate. The SysOp is Dr. Jim Robinson, Medford, telephone (715) 748-5668 (home), or (715) 748-3377 (office).

- I received some information not too long ago about a new 450-foot tower being put up in the Rib Falls area of Marathon County, approximately 10 miles southwest of Athens, WI. The tower was to be used for a proposed FM radio station operating with a power of 50,000 watts. The owner's last name was reported to be Mallory, and had a Mosinee address. The station is apparently now on the air, operating with the call sign WOFM, on a frequency of 94.7 MHz. The tower sounds like it might be a good location for some ham radio antennas? Anyone out there interested?

- Effective August, 1990, Taylor County Sheriff Don Wright has been added to our club's mailing list to receive a free, complimentary subscription to



SSB
SELL SWAP BUY

OUR WANT ADS GET RESULTS

FOR SALE: Atlas 350XL. Original owner. Excellent condition. \$350.00. Tempo 1 with 10DA mike, power, and speaker. Works well. \$200.00. Atlas 180 160-20 meter mobile, works great. \$275.00. Dean Summers, KQØC, 631 10th Street, Onalaska, WI 54650. □

Kenwood Kids

Attention, clubs! Kenwood USA Corporation is offering a limited number of KIDS packages to any club willing to co-sponsor a local school, scout troop, or youth group. Your club provides local assistance and "Elmers" the group, and Kenwood provides the educational materials and other helpful items. The KIDS packages consist of 10 copies of *Now You're Talking*

and one copy of the ARRL Novice/Technician Instructor's Guide.

The number of available KIDS packages is limited, so clubs should hurry and order theirs! Club Co-Sponsor Forms are available from Kenwood USA, c/o Mike Forsyth, P.O. Box 22745, Long Beach, CA 90801, Attention: Kenwood KIDS.

- ARRL Section Leader via Rich Regent, K9GDF

Badger State Smoke Signals, the official newspaper for the Taylor County Area Amateur Radio Club's newsletter.

• If you're looking for some interesting reading, try an article titled "The Vision Behind the Patriot" in the May, 1991 issue of *Reader's Digest*. If you may not subscribe, you may be able to find it in your local library. It's the story about Don Banks, KA1ZR, of New Hampshire, who helped develop the guidance system for the Patriot missile, which performed so well during the Persian Gulf war.

• Louis Young, KA9UXN, Colby, was featured in an article on Amateur Radio titled "Colby Driver Reaches Outer Space" that appeared in the Summer, 1990 issue of *Truckin' PCA*, a newsletter produced by Packaging Corporation of America for its drivers. Included in the article was a photo of Louis in the cab of his rig, with his mike in his hand. The article was centered around his contacts with the Soviet space station MIR in 1989.

Donations Sought for Medford Repeater Improvement

As most club members are already aware, for a recent approximately 2-month period, from October to early December of 1991, a pair of Motorola Radius transceivers was being used in the club's 147.75/147.15 repeater located in Medford. During that time period, the coverage of the repeater, both transmit and receive, was vastly improved, and it was not uncommon to hear stations check into the repeater on a regular basis from Marshfield, Wausau, Tomahawk, Phillips, Ladysmith, and other locations. Coverage was also vastly improved for mobiles and hand-helds.

Unfortunately, the units were only available to us on a trial basis and had to be returned in early December. Since that time, I have received letters from and spoken in person to several members of the club, and they all seem to feel the same way. They would at least like to see the club purchase one Radius for use as a repeater receiver, along with the Micor preamplifier. Total cost for these items would fall somewhere in the \$500 to \$600 range.

Unfortunately, the club's treasury at this time will not cover anywhere near this amount. In addition, since many club members are still paid ahead on their annual dues, most through the end of 1993, from the last major repeater improvement project, the club will not have any substantial income for several years yet, and it could possibly be up to five years before we would be in a position to be able to purchase the equipment out of treasury funds. That last major project saw the purchase of a new repeater antenna and repeater controller, as well as some other miscellaneous items.

The members I have been contacted by have proposed to me that, to get around the problem, the club should solicit outright donations and contributions from the membership to help pay for the purchase. They also felt that those who are not current members of the club, but who are (or were) regular users of the repeater, should also be solicited to assist with a contribution. This would not be limited to just those repeater users in the immediate Taylor County area, but would include those in adjacent counties and areas as well, who would potentially benefit from the improved coverage of the Medford repeater.

If we could get at least 28 individuals to donate \$25.00 to this project, we could realize our goal. I do not feel this is an unrealistic expectation. Naturally, some simply cannot afford that amount, and we welcome any contribution they can make. Likewise, those who can donate more are encouraged to do so. The figure of \$25.00 is just a suggestion as to what contribution level would be necessary, based just on our current membership level and a number of "local" repeater users. If there are those who simply do not want to make an outright donation to this project, but prefer to have their amount applied toward club/repeater membership dues, the club would certainly be willing to accommodate them. Naturally, however, we would prefer to receive outright donations to the project. I

would like to have some idea by the time of the next club meeting (March 12) of how much the club can expect to receive in donations (and advance dues payments). Therefore, I'm asking all those willing to assist us to get their donations, or at least a verbal or written pledge, in to me before that date, if possible. Call me at (715) 223-3996 (leave a message, if necessary), or write to me at the address in the heading of this column. □

The next regular meeting of the Taylor County Area Amateur Radio Club will be held on Thursday, March 12 at 7 P.M. in the Emergency Government meeting room/Red Cross office located in the basement of the sheriff's annex to the Taylor County Courthouse, corner of 2nd and Ogden Streets, Medford, WI. Talk-in on 147.75/147.15 repeater.

Excerpts from Minutes of February 13 Meeting

Meeting was called to order by President N9GEN. Present were N9GHZ (Abbotsford), KB9BLV, WD9FWP, and NZ9U (Dorchester), N9IDW (Lublin), KB9HCT (Withee), W9LEE (Westboro), N9LIE and N9LHY (Sheldon), N9LIU (Holcombe), and KE9LX, N9GEN, and N9FZD (Medford).

Minutes of last month's meeting were read by Secretary N9GHZ. Treasurer's report was given by Treasurer WD9FWP.

The next VE test session to be held in Medford is set for April 11. The Multi-Purpose Building at the Taylor County Fairgrounds has been reserved. N9GHZ passed out copies of an announcement to members present, and asked them to announce the test session on area 2-meter nets.

NZ9U received his VE accreditation on February 7. There are now four accredited VEs in the Taylor County area: N9GEN and WD9C (Medford), N9IDW (Lublin), and NZ9U (Dorchester).

N9GHZ reported on the Morse code training course being held at the public library in Thorp. Ten individuals are attending classes: N9LHY (Sheldon), Harry Kluender (Greenwood), N9MEH (Stanley), N9MED (Lublin), N9NDT and Eric Newman (Gilman), and KB9HCS, Rich and Al Hughes and Jim Kaz (Thorp). There were nine students at the first class held February 1, and eight students at the February 9 class.

N9GHZ reported that N9MED is working to get more Amateur Radio publications into the library at Gilman High School. W9LEE suggested that other club members consider donating their old and no longer needed Amateur Radio magazines, books, *Smoke Signals*, and other publications to their local public and/or high school libraries. W9QHI has already been doing this for several years now, taking his monthly *QST* magazines to the Medford Public Library after he is through reading them.

N9GHZ reported he had submitted articles and photos of those students who attended his Amateur Radio license course, held last year in Thorp, to several area newspapers, including the *Thorp Courier*, the *Medford Star News*, and the *Stanley Republican*. He recently received a phone call from Francis Hofkes, of Boyd, WI, who saw the article and picture of N9MEH, N9MEI, and daughter in the Stanley paper. Francis formerly held a General Class license, call sign W9IBO, that he had let expire and he was interested in getting back into Amateur Radio.

N9GHZ reported that he had been contacted on January 15, 1992 by someone from the Wisconsin Viet Nam Veterans Memorial Project, Inc., in Neillsville, and he had agreed to serve on a committee that is planning activities to be held at the Highground memorial park just west of Neillsville, in conjunction with Independence Day (July 4). K9FYZ, of Chaseburg, WI, has proposed setting up at least three working HF stations at the park that would allow visitors on July 4 an opportunity to talk with other people from across the country and around the world on the occasion of a special holiday, and from a location of special significance. N9GHZ reported that there has been some preliminary discussion of setting this up as a special event station and perhaps getting

Sheboygan County Amateur Radio Club

Kurt Diedring, WB9GLB, Secretary

1603 North 16th Street • Sheboygan, WI 53081

Meeting Minutes February 11, 1992

Meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by President Ronald Brey, N9ITM. Secretary's report accepted as read. No treasurer's report this month.

2-meter net operators were solicited for the coming month.

Reports from Standing Committees

Rob, KA9AFT, reported for the disaster committee. A mock disaster exercise is being planned for June 13 at Radom Lake.

Ron, N9ITM, technical committee, reported that the old TLC tower site will be vacated soon. The club's repeater, now at the Red Cross building, will be moved temporarily to Al's, NF9R, QTH near Plymouth for evaluation. Ron, KB9CGO, suggested the Sheboygan Falls High School as a future repeater site.

Old Business

Ron, N9ITM, had received several insurance quotes. Our options were discussed, and Jim, WA9SNU, questioned if we need any insurance at all. Jim suggested to find out from other clubs in the

area what kind of coverage they carry.

The meeting with Star Cablevision and the follow-up letter was discussed. Rob, KA9AFT, recommended to send a letter to all members about the TVI matter.

The *Badger State Smoke Signals* should have been received by all current members.

There is still time to sign up for the Sweetheart Dinner at Ninos, 7 p.m., February 21, 1992. See Jim, WA9SNU.

New Business

The repeater ID will be changed to "NF9R" at the move to the new location, also the autopatch will be available again.

Penny, KB9BJM, suggested to use the Club Station, located at the Red Cross Building, for the 1992 Wisconsin QSO Party. All club members, new Novices and other interested people are invited to operate or visit the station on Sunday, March 1, between noon and 7 p.m. Penny is going to organize the operators.

The FLAT TUBE award will be given to Tom, AA9BJ, for his outstanding work with the Novice class.

Old *Callbooks* were auctioned: KA9-HUF - DX; N9ITM - US.

Respectfully submitted:
Kurt Diedring, WB9GLB, Secretary

Manitowoc Ham Part of South Sandwich DXpedition

Dave Schmocker, KJ9I, Manitowoc, will be one of the operators on a DXpedition to put South Sandwich on the air for about 14 days beginning March 22. Dave has DXpedition experience, having operated from Willis Island and Mellish Reef a couple of years ago.

Dave says they expect one of the biggest challenges they may face is keeping their antennas up, since the wind on South Sandwich gusts up to 80 to 100 miles an hour!

The DXpedition will sign VP8SSI. Operators will be JE3MAS, OH2BH, WA3YVN, WA4JQS, W6KMB, W9-KNT, KJ9I, and K0IR.

Frequencies for the operation will be: 1.827 MHz CW, 1.840 SSB; 3.505 CW, 3.625 SSB; 7.005 CW, 7.055 SSB; 10.105 CW, 14.025 CW, 14.145 SSB; 18.070 CW, 18.115 SSB; 21.025 CW, 21.195 SSB; 24.895 CW, 24.935 SSB; 28.025 CW, 28.295 SSB. QSOX up as announced. All frequencies may vary due to QRM, etc. They will also try to operate in the Novice bands and on RTTY. There is a possibility of 6-meter operation.

We wish the DXpedition crew a safe journey and much success. Our thanks to Dave, KJ9I, for the information listed above. □

a special call sign from the FCC.

N9GHZ read a note from Taylor County Emergency Government Director Roland Sacho, inquiring as to what efforts the club has made to get the monthly rate for the telephone service for the repeater autopatch lowered. According to written records of a meeting held on March 8, 1990, the Taylor County Board Executive Committee had indicated that, if at all possible, they would like to see us obtain the lower, residential rate, and that we (the club) were working on that. N9GHZ also read a letter that was sent by Sacho to the Wisconsin Public Service Commission.

N9GHZ reported that he had also sent a letter to the Commission on behalf of the club and ARES, requesting that the rate be reviewed. A copy of that letter was sent to the ARRL Section Manager, K9GDF, who had been involved in a similar situation. N9GHZ passed around a copy of WB9-RQR's reply, along with copies of the correspondence related to his efforts. The end result, in their case, was that the Commission upheld the telephone company's rate for telephone service to a repeater located at a site that did not qualify as a residence, according to telephone company tariff definition. N9GHZ reported that he had not yet received a reply from the Commission in response to his own letter.

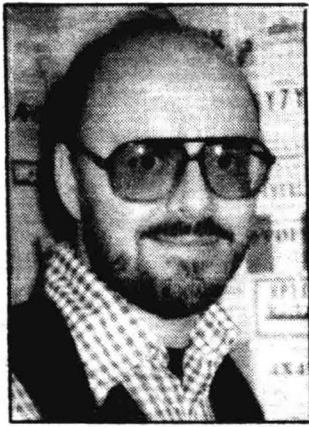
Motion by KE9LX, seconded by N9-LHY, to form a repeater maintenance committee, to consist of N9LIE, N9GHZ, KE4FE, KB9BLV, and W9QHI. Motion carried.

Sources of spectrum analyzers/service monitors for use in checking out the club's repeater were discussed. Among those who either own or have access to such test equipment who were mentioned by members include WA9ZCO (Dorchester), KC9UC (Wausau), N9HNI (Boyceville), and N9BOE (Tomah).

N9GHZ provided some information on a project that he and WA9ZCO are currently working on with students from Abbotsford High School. It is called Project INSPIRE, and is a NASA experiment involving the study of the effect of the Earth's magnetosphere on radio waves. The experiment will be conducted as part of a space shuttle mission currently scheduled for the end of March. Mike and Marc are working with a Physics class and an Introduction to Technology Education class at Abbotsford High School. The project involves assembling a very low frequency receiver from a kit, and recording the transmissions from the space shuttle during the mission.

Meeting adjourned. □

Madison Radio Amateur Writes Sub-Chapter in ARRL RFI Book



A new book, published by the American Radio Relay League, covers the often touchy subject of interference to electronic equipment by Amateur

Radio and other types of transmitting equipment. John W. Frank, WB9TQG, Madison, pictured above, wrote part of a chapter for the book's section about interference to television receiving equipment. John's writing deals with interference to video cassette recorders (VCRs).

Those who have been reading *Badger State Smoke Signals* for more than a year or so are familiar with John's down-to-earth way of explaining technical subjects in his very special, easy to understand way. He has written numerous articles for this newspaper during the past five years, including the two series, "John's Junk Box" (it's finally empty!) and "Repeater Profiles", as well as book reviews, technical articles, and other Amateur Radio-related articles.

BSSS congratulates John on his becoming part of a major League publication. We're pleased that now an international readership will benefit from his ability to explain complex subjects in ways that we all can understand.

The publication is *Radio Frequency Interference: How to Find it and Fix It*. The ARRL publication number is 3754. It is available from Amateur Radio dealers (see the back page of BSSS), or from the ARRL. The book is \$15.00. □

Wisconsin Strength in American Radio Relay League

I've just taken taken the ARRL pulse of Wisconsin Amateurs. We're the strongest in the ninth call area. Indiana and Illinois, the other two states in the ninth call area, have more hams, but Wisconsin has the largest percentage of ARRL members, 29.5 percent.

Here are the numbers (data from ARRL Field Forum, January, 1992). Wisconsin has 2,378 League members out of its 8,061 licensed amateurs; Illinois has 5,810 out of 20,101 for 28.9 percent and Indiana has 3,150 out of 11,906 for 26.5 percent.

Our neighbor state to the west, Minnesota, has 410 more amateurs than we do, but only 5.5 percent of their hams are League members. When some of their snow melts, we'll have to continue to spread the word of League membership benefits through clubs and swapfests near that border. Many people that attend Wisconsin swapfests in that area are out-of-state visitors, so let's talk it up.

Thanks for your healthy support of the ARRL.

- Richard Regent, K9GDF
Section Manager,
Wisconsin Section ARRL
5003 South 26th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53221

Eau Claire Amateur Radio Club

Don Franzmann, W9NFJ, Secretary

2728 Marilyn Drive • Eau Claire, WI 54701

Meeting Minutes February 11, 1992

The meeting was called to order by President Bill Jablonske, W9NNS, at 7:30 p.m. Introduction of members and guests followed. The secretary's and treasurer's reports were read and approved, with minor corrections. The treasurer's report stated that we have 90 paid-up members to date.

The first item of business was to elect three people to the Board of Directors. The following had been nominated at the January meeting: Al Schlaugate, N9ISN; Carl Searing, W9NW; and Don Alm, K9UXP. In addition, Jim Fitzl, N9LIJ, was nominated from the floor. The election was then held, with the following

placed on the Board: Don Alm, K9UXP; Carl Searing, W9NW; and Jim Fitzl, N9LIJ.

At President Jablonske's suggestion, a discussion took place relating to the expansion of ham radio in our area, resulting in the following volunteers to explore various methods to accomplish this goal and report back at the March meeting. They are: Mike, N9JMA; Jeff, N9JMB; Ralph, WB9RUK; Chris, KA9UQO; Ron, WA9-PAM; and Craig, N9NCW.

A suggestion was made to prepare an inventory list of all club equipment. This project was referred to the Board of Directors.

Mike, N9JMA, distributed draft copies of the new repeater book; however, due to some possible discrepancies with the club's constitution, a motion was passed to

table further discussion and action until they can be resolved.

The 146.31/91 Repeater Assessment Committee, consisting of Bob, W9BAR; Joe, KB9R; and Fred, WU9R, made its presentation, along with its recommendations. After a lengthy discussion, motions authorizing the club to purchase a new, heavy-duty Station Master antenna and a new controller were passed unanimously. The club will solicit and accept donations to help defray the cost of these items.

The lunch committee for March is: Jeff, N9JMB, and Mike, N9JMA.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:
Don Franzmann, W9NFJ, Secretary

Attention Participating Clubs

If your club is ARRL-affiliated, we can add the League diamond to your club's heading. We also have the ARRL Special Service Club logo available. If you would like either or both of these, or any other information, added to your club's heading (club call sign, etc.), please drop a note to the BSSS editor.

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You get a lighted peak and average reading Cross-Needle SWR/Wattmeter with 200 and 2000 watt ranges. Its new directional coupler gives you accurate SWR and power readings over the entire 1.8 through 30 MHz range.

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You get a super heavy duty current balun for balanced lines. It's made with two giant 2 1/2 inch powder iron toroid cores and wound with teflon wire connected to high voltage ceramic feedthru insulators. It lets you operate high power into balanced feedlines out core saturation or voltage breakdown.

Ceramic Antenna Switch
You get a two water-6 position ceramic antenna switch with extra large contacts for trouble free switching.

Plus much, much more
You also get a built-in 300 watt dummy load, full one year unconditional guarantee, flip stand, all aluminum cabinet, tough baked on paint, locking compound on all nuts and bolts. 3 KW PEP. Meter lamp needs 12 volts. Compact 10 3/4x4 1/2x15 inches. Made in the USA. Add \$10 s/h. Don't settle for less-get yours today!

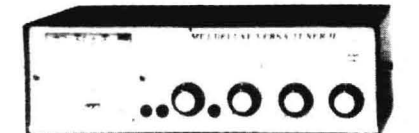
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MFJ-949D More hams use the MFJ-949D than any other antenna tuner in the world! **\$149.95** Why? Because the MFJ-949D gives you proven reliability, the ability to match just about anything and a one year unconditional guarantee. You get a lighted peak and average reading Cross-Needle SWR/wattmeter, antenna switch, 4:1 balun for balanced lines, 1.8-30 MHz coverage and a full size dummy load that easily handles 300 watts of abusive tune-up power.

The inductor switch is specially designed to withstand the extreme voltages and currents that are developed in your tuner—it's not an underrated off-the-shelf switch that can put you off-the-air. Each MFJ-949D aluminum cabinet is chemically etched to strongly bond MFJ's tough baked-on paint. You won't find a tougher, longer lasting finish anywhere.

MFJ's New 300 Watt Tuner



MFJ-948 If you don't need a dummy load but want all the other features of the MFJ-949D, choose the MFJ-948 for \$129.95. The MFJ-948 features a peak reading lighted Cross-Needle meter with a built-in lamp switch, one year unconditional guarantee and is made here in the USA.

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MFJ-941E The new MFJ-941E gives you a 300 watt PEP tuner that covers everything from 1.8-30 MHz -- plus you get a cross-needle meter, antenna switch and balun for an incredible \$109.95. Lamp uses 12 VDC or 110 VAC with MFJ-1312, \$12.95.

Antenna switch selects 2 coax lines (direct or through tuner), random wire, balanced line or external dummy load. 4:1 balun. 1000 volt capacitors. Measures 10-5/8" x 2-7/8" x 7".

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MFJ-986 The new MFJ-986 Differential-T™ 2-knob tuner uses a differential capacitor to make tuning foolproof and easier than ever. It ends constant re-tuning with broadband coverage and gives you minimum SWR at only one best setting. Handles 3 KW PEP.

Roller inductor makes tuning smooth and easy. Turns counter lets you quickly re-tune to frequency. MFJ's peak and average reading cross-needle meter reads forward/reflected power in 200/50 and 2000/500 watt ranges. Meter lamp uses 12 VDC or 110 VAC with MFJ-1312, \$12.95. Current balun reduces feedline radiation and forces equal currents into antenna halves that are not perfectly balanced. It covers 1.8-30 MHz. Get yours today! Add \$10 s/h.

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MFJ-16010 **\$39.95** Operate all bands anywhere with any transceiver with the MFJ-16010. It lets you turn a random wire into a transmitting antenna. 1.8-30 MHz. 200 watts PEP. Ultra small 2"x3"x4".

MFJ's Mobile Tuner



MFJ-945D **\$89.95** Don't leave home without this mobile tuner! Have an uninterrupted trip as the MFJ-945D extends your antenna bandwidth so you don't have to stop, go outside and adjust your mobile whip. Small 8 x 2 x 6 inches uses little room. Lighted Cross-Needle SWR/Wattmeter makes tuning easy while in motion. Has lamp switch. 1.8-30 MHz. 300 watts PEP. Mobile mount, MFJ-20, \$4.95.

MFJ's Versatile 1.5 KW Tuner



MFJ-962C **\$229.95** MFJ-962C lets you use your barefoot rig now and have the capacity to add a 1.5 KW PEP amplifier later. It covers 1.8-30 MHz.

You get MFJ's peak and average reading Cross-needle SWR/Wattmeter. It reads forward/reflected power in 200/50 and 2000/500 watt ranges. Lamp uses 12 VDC or 110 VAC with MFJ-1312, \$12.95. Plus . . . 6-position antenna switch and teflon wound balun with ceramic feedthru insulators for balanced lines. 10 3/4 x 4 1/2 x 14-7/8 in. \$10 s/h.

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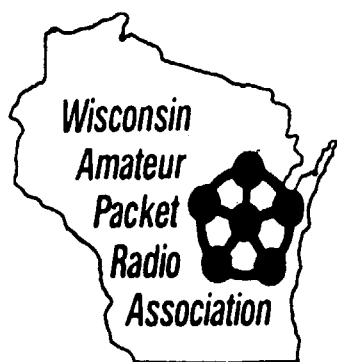
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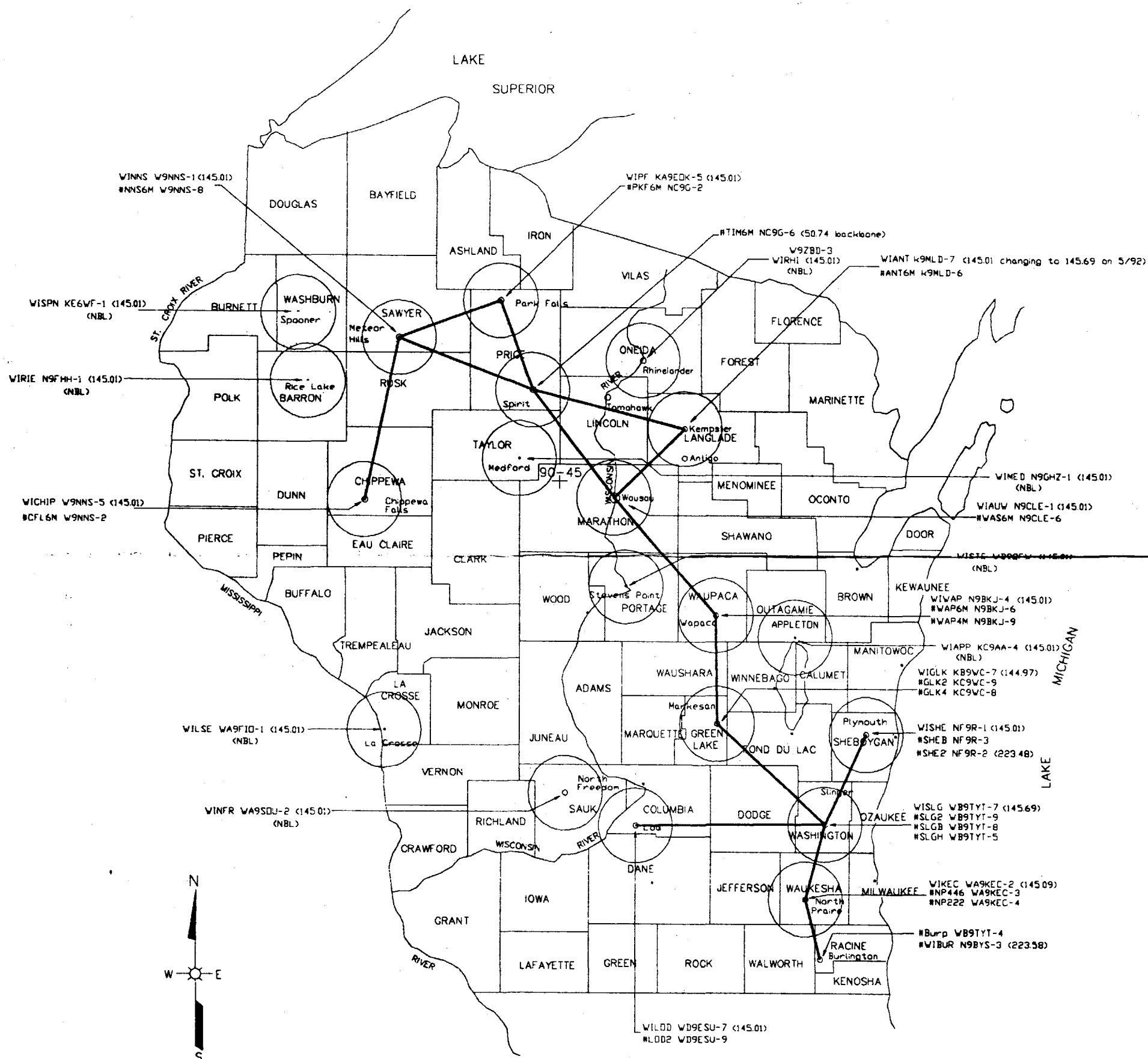
THE WISCONSIN PACKETEER

Wisconsin Amateur Packet Radio Association (WAPR)

William Schroeder, W9ZBD
4247 Forest Point Drive • Rhinelander, WI 54501

Steve Loeffler, WB9ZRE, Editor, 123 W. Oshkosh St., Ripon, WI 54971

WAPR Funds Expand Wisconsin Packet Network



STATE OF WISCONSIN

WAPR BACKBONE NETWORK

K9MLD 1/27/92

BACKBONE FREQUENCIES
ARE ON 6 METERS, 1 1/4 METERS, 70 CENTIMETERS (NBL) No Backbone Link

To WAPR members and potential members:

Shown in the map above are your WAPR dollars at work. This is only the beginning of the things that are happening and are planned for packet radio in our state.

Through the efforts of WAPR's board of directors, its members, and WAPR membership dues, we are able to fund packet "backbone" circuits to allow each node to be interlinked. This increases packet's capability to handle and forward traffic throughout the state.

With your support, we will be able to continue linking and providing reliable circuit paths to each node, which will insure the growth and success of our packet network. The work being done still

needs financial support, dues, donations, and muscle for our work to be successful.

It goes without saying that funding is not the only way in which we need your help; anyone interested in helping with the work efforts and in promoting the growth of the network is encouraged to contact the WAPR board of directors. You may also forward your interests and concerns to me.

- Joel Eschmann, K9MLD
6964 Meadowdale Drive
Hartford, WI 53027

Packet: K9MLD @ KC9BK.WI.USA.NA

Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club

K9ODK
WB9FDZ

Harry Westlund, K9EHJ, Secretary

720 Jefferson Street • Baraboo, WI 53913



The February 21, 1992 meeting of the Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club was called to order by the President Art Kleefisch, W9WSS at 7:40 p.m.

Two corrections of the January 14, 1992 meeting minutes were entered. The date of the meeting was incorrect and should read Wednesday, February 12, 1992. Secondly, the equipment fund was eliminated and the money was put in the general fund. A motion for acceptance of the minutes as corrected was entered by Harold Reif, KA9YQP, and seconded by Duane Grotophorst, KA9HKL, and accepted.

Jim Decker, WB9UQT, submitted his treasurer's report.

Duane Grotophorst, KA9HKL gave a report on the progress of the Novice Classes. Signs were posted at several business places and local schools. Rooms were reserved at the Civic Center and the first get acquainted meeting is set for Tuesday, February 18, 1992.

Secretary Harry Westlund, K9EHJ read a letter from the Dane County Emergency Government announcing a series of classes offering instruction on tornado recognition.

Due to unavoidable circumstances the April and May activity programs will be changed. Subject matter will be the same but dates exchanged. Bill Klinkner, N9KXX announced April's program will be switched to May and May's program will occur in April.

The Chair announced the sunset provision of the new by-laws does not apply to new members.

Two (2) new members were voted in, Anne

Klinkner, no license, and E. E. McCall, KA9VFO.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by L.J. Hemmer, WA9TFJ and seconded by Tom Thomson, N9LLE at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Harry Westlund, K9EHJ, Secretary

The following members and guests were present at the meeting:

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Tom McCann, KB9HAB | Baraboo |
| Steve Schwoegler, WB9RNL | Wisconsin Dells |
| Harold Reif, KA9YQP | Baraboo |
| Bob Sauvan, WT9Q | Sauk City |
| Duane Grotophorst, KA9HKL | Loganville |
| Raymond Matlosz, N9MLZ | Reedsburg |
| Jack Kirner, N9LKZ | Prarie du Sac |
| Rick Wegner, N9MME | North Freedom |
| Anne Klinkner | Prairie du Sac |
| Bill Kninkner, N9KXX | Prairie du Sac |
| L.J. Hemmer, WB9TFJ | Baraboo |
| Rohbert Hemmer, N9LKX | Baraboo |
| Kevin Perry, N9LME | Prairie du Sac |
| Mark Thomson, N9LTC | Sauk City |
| Tom Thomson, N9LLF | Sauk City |
| Harry Westlund, K9EHJ | Baraboo |
| Dennis Sweeney | Portage |
| Joey Sweeney, KB9ERR | Portage |
| Harry Mayland, K9FFT | Baraboo |
| Art Kleefisch, W9WSS | Baraboo |
| Jim Decker, WB9UQT | Baraboo |
| E.J. McCall, KAOUFD | Friendship |

If you plan on taking any of the exams, it is suggested that you contact the sponsoring organization as the date nears to find if there have been any changes in dates or locations.

This section of Badger State Smoke Signals is available to publicize your Volunteer Examiner Amateur Radio license examination schedules. Please send us your schedules of dates, times, and locations that you will be conducting examinations and we will include the information here. Be sure to include contact address and any other necessary requirements. Information should be sent to K9EN at the address shown on page 2.

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WANTED: Old or unusual telegraph keys and bugs. Contact Jerry Scherkenbach at call book address, telephone (414) 481-8831 or Packet radio N9AW @ WB9TYT.

During the celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary, the wife noticed a tear in her husband's eye... "I never realized how sentimental you are" she said.

"That's not it" he sniffled...

"Remember when your father caught us in the barn, he said if I didn't marry you he'd send me to jail for 50 years? Well, today I would have been a free man!"

Silent Key

SHIRLEY EMMERICH, N9JKB, of Tripoli, suffered a massive heart attack on February 16, 1992, and could not be revived with CPR. She was doing what she really enjoyed during her last moments, taking part as a volunteer with ham radio emergency preparedness work.

According to Tom, KE9UE, ARRL Emergency Coordinator for Vilas County, Shirley and the Lincoln County ARES group were on a practice search on that cold Sunday.

Shirley was a member of the Tomahawk Repeater Association. Her husband is Eugene, N9JKA.

She will be missed by many.

- Richard R. Regent, K9GDF

Odds and Ends

• If you send material to BSSS for publication in (1) Swapfests and Other Social Events, (2) Club Meetings or, (3) The Test Point, please send these items to Ken Ebner, K9EN! Don't send them to K9ZZ. If you have material for both K9EN and K9ZZ, please send them separately to the right staff member! If you don't, your submission may not appear. Ken and I don't see other very often to swap misdirected material. We both have time limitations, too, so even finding an opportunity to send items back and forth by mail is difficult. You can help avoid mixups and lost material by sending information to the right staff member in the first place. Thanks for your cooperation.

- Jim Romelfanger, K9ZZ

• According to the FCC, budget considerations will preclude the Commission's Field Office Bureau from handling many RFI complaints and problems. The FOB must give priority to safety of life programs, a senior Commission official told the ARRL, in consideration of funds available. Such programs include cable television system leakage on aviation communications channels, tower lighting enforcement, and shipboard inspections.

Other cutbacks likely will include FCC involvement in ham-to-ham interference complaints and interference to amateurs from noise sources such as arc welders, other industrial equipment, and the like.

Amateurs themselves will have to shoulder additional responsibility in dealing with these matters, the official said.

- The ARRL Letter, 2/10/92

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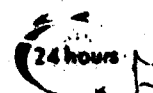
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TESTPOINT

(continued from page 3)

Hamfest on July 17, Friday evening from 7 to 9 p.m. and on the Hamfest day itself, July 18, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Contact Carl F. Searing, 1129 McKinley Rd., Eau Claire, WI 54703-2219, (715) 834-1303.

MADISON, WI - ARRL/VEC

Mar. 21, & Apr. 18, 1992.

All exams will be held in the Labor Temple at 1610 South Park St., Madison, WI.

Due to scheduling problems with the Labor Temple in Madison, WI the exams must be changed from the second Saturday of the month to the third. The new exam dates will be, Feb. 15, March 21 and April 18. It will continue to be at 8 a.m. in room 201B. Sorry for the inconvenience. Mark, N29B

Contact: Gari Berliot, (608) 221-2022

STEVENS POINT, WI - ARRL/VEC

Contact: Joe Larson, (715) 344-1182

APPLETON, WI - ARRL/VEC

Contact: Larry Siebers, (414) 788-3823

DUBUQUE, IOWA - ARRL/VEC

1992 examination dates: March 14, June 13, September 5, and November 21. The Great River ARC VEs are now field-stocked with examinations, which means that re-tests can be given immediately. Exams are held at 9 a.m. at the Central Fire Station, 9th and Central, Dubuque. Use the basement entrance on 9th Street. Talkins are on 147.84/24, 147.63/03, and 146.295/895 repeaters. Contact Mike Jozefowicz, NSOU, 2735 Hockory Hill, Dubuque, Iowa 52001, (319) 582-8563. (Thanks Art Evans KA9KLZ)

LOVES PARK, IL

Third Saturday of every month. Northern Illinois Volunteer Examiners (DeVry VEC). Held at North Suburban District Library, 6340 North Second St. (Hwy. 251), Loves Park, IL. Contact: Dennis G. Eksten, W9SS, 5006 N. Second St., Loves Park, IL 61111. (815) 877-6768.

The Badger State Smoke Signals Shopper's Guide

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HAMFEST INFO:
Don Baker
621 W. 7th St.
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414-766-3886

EXAM INFO:
Larry, KD9IA,
414-788-3823, or
Don, NB9J,
414-766-3886

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"Bob" - 414-684-5352 (Nights) "John" - 414-682-9151 (Days)

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